

Second crossing to be delayed

AMMAN (AFP) — The opening of a second border crossing between Jordan and Israel, originally slated for mid-October, has been postponed because of a delay in building a new bridge, officials here said Saturday. "The postponement is due to the non-completion of work on the Israeli side," said Brigadier Imed Maaya, head of the army's engineering corps. Marwan Musheh, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, also confirmed the delay but he would not give a new date. "It all depends on the work on the Israeli side," he told AFP. U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that the border crossing would be inaugurated by Oct. 15. The announcement came after a meeting at the White House between Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Oct. 3. The new bridge over the River Jordan will be the second border crossing for third century nationals between Jordan and Israel. The first one, at Wadi Araba near the southern port city of Aqaba, was opened on Aug. 8. The work is being carried out near the old Sheikh Hussein Bridge, which was partially blown up in the first war of 1948. It was further destroyed during the 1967 conflict.

Volume 18 Number 5742

Arab independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية - الرأي

Jordan Times

AMMAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994, JUMADA ALAW- AL 10, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Gulf tension eases as U.S. confirms Iraqi withdrawal

U.S., Russia deadlocked over U.N. move

Combined agency dispatches

TENSION IN the Gulf eased slightly Saturday as the United States confirmed Iraq was withdrawing its Republican Guard forces and no longer in a position to attack Kuwait after a week-long standoff.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, here visiting U.S. troops, said: "The deployment of Iraqi troops at this moment is still ambiguous. But it appears the remaining half of the one Republican Guard division still in the south appears to be waiting for transport back home."

"The Republican Guards are not in a position to attack as we stand," he told reporters a day after warning that one guard unit remained "dangerously close" to the emirate. "We don't expect an attack now."

"We are continuing our deployment ... we are not pocketing a peaceful outcome yet," Mr. Perry said. "But I am optimistic at this stage."

Mr. Perry was visiting U.S. forces bolstered by the weekend arrival of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

In Baghdad, Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi said earlier that Iraq had ordered the withdrawal of its last crack Republican Guard in the south. "It is time to pull back this force to its former positions,

in keeping with its training programme," said Mr. Hammadi, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency.

Mr. Hammadi did not specify the division in question but said his announcement concerned "the Iraqi force ... about which the Americans have raised such a fuss."

The latest Gulf standoff erupted on Oct. 7 after Iraqi troops massed near the Kuwaiti border, triggering a

major deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf to prevent a replay of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Mr. Perry left open the possibility of a military strike but said his announcement concerned "the Iraqi force ... about which the Americans have raised such a fuss."

"I'm not making threats. I'm not rattling sabers. I'm just stating facts. We are not

prepared to be pinned down here for a long period of time. We expect a prompt return of Iraqi troops," Mr. Perry said.

With tension easing in the Gulf, attention shifted to the United Nations and a growing rift between the United States and Russia on how to deal with Iraq.

Washington and London have sponsored a resolution that would bar Iraq from

redeploying Republican Guard units near the Kuwaiti border or boosting other forces there. They wanted to vote on it Saturday.

But Russia wants to delay the vote until after Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrives on Sunday, and its U.N. Ambassador Vassily Sidorov threatened Saturday to veto the resolution if proposed Russian amendments were not adopted.

He said Russia wanted the resolution to reflect a joint Iraqi-Russian statement in which Baghdad offered to recognise Kuwait and Moscow pledged to work for the lifting of sanctions in force against Iraq since its invasion of the emirate four years ago.

The United States has dismissed the Iraqi offer, saying Iraq must comply with all U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war and that to lift the sanctions would reward Iraq for triggering the new standoff.

Britain also rejected it, calling the offer "inadequate."

But France stopped short of lining up behind its Gulf war allies. On Friday Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he was sceptical of the Iraqi offer, but on Saturday he said that if Iraq takes "this decision swiftly and unambiguously then that will be a new issue which we will have to take into account."

The French, while not insisting on a Security Council

(Continued on page 12)

U.S. Navy flight deck personnel rush around an F/A-18C Hornet preparing to take off

from the USS George Washington sailing off the coasts of Kuwait (AFP photo)

PNA faces possible showdown with Hamas after kidnap arrests

Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY — Moving towards a showdown, thousands of Islamist activists rallied against Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chief Yasser Arafat's rule Saturday, and vigilantes threatened to "make Gaza burn" if arrests of fundamentalists continue.

Mr. Arafat's self-rule government urged Israel to resume talks on expanding autonomy and to reopen Israel to Gaza workers, saying the sanctions imposed after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier played into the hands of extremists.

The hostage, Nachshon Waxman, 19, was shot dead Friday during an army raid on the kidnappers' West Bank hideout. Waxman's three captors and an Israeli commando were also killed.

Hamas, the Muslim fundamentalist group which held Waxman, warned Saturday that it would kidnap more Israelis unless Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to free 200 Palestinian prisoners.

Hamas called a mourning strike for the kidnappers that shut down most of the West Bank on Saturday.

The Izzedine Al Qassam brigades, Hamas' underground military wing, threatened to unleash a civil war if Palestinian police continued to arrest Hamas activists. Under pressure from Israel and the United States, Mr. Arafat ordered more than 160 rounded up this week as part of the effort to find the kidnappers.

"Izzedine Al Qassam's answer will be to make Gaza burn," said a Hamas leaflet distributed Saturday. "Hamas doesn't allow any faction to lay a finger on its followers."

Waxman's abduction forced Mr. Arafat into an unwanted showdown with Hamas, his strongest political rival. In the past, Mr. Arafat



Thousands of Palestinian students supporting the fundamentalist Hamas movement rally in Gaza City to protest the killing of three Hamas men in the West Bank village of Bir Nabala (AFP photo)

was reluctant to crack down, fearing his fragile government might not survive a confrontation in the streets. But after the kidnapping, Mr. Rabin turned up the pressure, insisting that the hostage was held in Gaza and that Mr. Arafat was solely responsible for the soldier's fate. In response, Mr. Arafat ordered the arrest sweeps. Ahmad Bahar, a Hamas leader, accused Mr. Arafat of surrendering to the Israelis. "The Palestinian authority... will continue taking measures to ensure national security." In a first step, Mr. Arafat's self-rule cabinet decided to ban the use of mosque loudspeakers for political propaganda. The self-rule authority also decided to confiscate unlicensed firearms in Gaza, an official said.

But the authority will also start releasing some of the 300 Hamas activists it arrested during the hunt for the kidnapped soldier. It also obliquely criticised Israel for trying to end the kidnapping by a commando operation. "The Palestinian authority has taken a decision to control the use of arms. Only people with licensed weapons will be able to use them. The use of weapons in public places will not be allowed."

said Mr. Tayeb Abdul Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian authority.

Earlier on Saturday, about 1,000 angry Palestinians marched in Gaza to demand that Mr. Arafat release the detained Hamas supporters.

Hamas statements threatened both Mr. Rabin

with more kidnappings, and Mr. Arafat if Hamas followers were not released from Israeli jails.

"The Palestinian authority which arrested hundreds of Hamas activists and supporters must release them immediately. If these arrests continue, Qassam brigades will reply by setting the Gaza Strip ablaze on the heads of the Zionists and their lackeys," said the statement faxed to news organisations.

The Palestinian authority expressed sorrow for the death of Waxman but criticised Israel for stopping

(Continued on page 12)



Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide brought him to Port-au-Prince from Washington D.C. on Saturday (AFP photo)

Aristide returns home after three years in exile

PONT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — President Jean-Bertrand Aristide flew back to Haiti on a U.S. government jetliner Saturday, ending three years of exile and completing an important step in the American effort to bring democracy to

democracy in their country.

But many Haitians were nervous, too, on the eve of Mr. Aristide's homecoming, fearful that his remaining political enemies especially in Haiti's right-wing paramilitary groups — might disrupt it with new bloodshed, or his supporters might turn violently vengeful for three years of repression.

The 20,000-member U.S. military force here was on heightened alert, more than two dozen Sheridan light tanks took up strategic posts in the capital, and U.S. helicopters crisscrossed the skies.

American troops manned sandbag positions atop the national palace.

In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton said the return of Mr. Aristide to Haiti marks the start of a new era for that country.

"Even as I speak with you this morning," the president said in his weekly radio address, "Haiti's first democratically-elected president is flying home to resume his rightful place at the helm of his country."

The president praised U.S. troops with doing a "remarkable job in moving Haiti from fear to freedom" and said Mr. Aristide's return marks "the start of a new era of hope for the Haitian people."

The challenges facing the Aristide government are huge.

Clinton: Killing will not turn back Mideast peace

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said Saturday that a "day of sorrow" because of the murder of an Israeli soldier in a commando operation but vowed the incident would not turn back the cause of peace in the Middle East.

The president told a political rally that Corporal Nachshon Waxman was "murdered by terrorists who are the enemies of peace in the Middle East."

"He was a son of Israel, but many of you might know he was also a citizen of the United States," Mr. Clinton said.

"Our prayers and our hearts go out to the people of Israel and to the Waxman family as we say to them, the United States will stand with you in the cause of peace in the Middle East. We have come too far to turn back and we must not let the wrecks and the killers turn us back today," Mr. Clinton said.

The president spoke at an airport rally for the Democratic candidate for Connecticut governor.

Earlier Clinton spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said Mr. Clinton called Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday night and

expressed his "deepest sympathy" on the death of Waxman.

Israeli opposition parties on Saturday came out in support of the unsuccessful commando raid ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on a guerrilla hideout near Jerusalem to rescue Waxman.

Guerillas shot dead the soldier and one of the rescuers when the Israeli troops stormed their house in Bir Nabala in the occupied West Bank on Friday evening.

"He was a son of Israel, but many of you might know he was also a citizen of the United States," Mr. Clinton said.

"There's really no alternative except to fight back and in this matter at least I support the government and Prime Minister Rabin completely," he told Israel Radio.

"When you embark on something like this you have to assume that both hostages and rescuers may die as indeed happened tragically here," he said.

Rafael Eitan, head of the right-wing Tzomet Party and a former army chief, said the raid followed Israel's tradition.

"I think I would have taken the same decision not to give in to terrorism, to go with strength, and do the best possible according to tradition," he told the radio.

However, an Israeli official said Israel did consider freeing the founder of Hamas in exchange for the Israeli.

Yossi Ginnosar, appointed by Mr. Rabin to coordinate efforts to free Waxman, said he heard the proposal for a

(Continued on page 12)

After costly dreams Iraq may have to forget Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — After a disastrous war, crippling sanctions and decades of calling it part of their country, Iraqis may have to abandon their dream of taking over Kuwait.

Baghdad's announcement on Thursday that it was ready to recognise Kuwait surprised many who grew up reading school textbooks that called the emirate an integral part of Iraq.

"We have tried all possible ways, children died, many starved and the economy is in a shambles — all for Kuwait. It is no longer worth it," one Baghdad resident said on Friday.

"I am happy that soon in the throat is over," said a Baghdad university professor.

But the troubled history of relations with the emirate so richly endowed with oil will be hard to forget.

"This government has done more than any other to recover the lost land. And now we will have to live with the hard facts we refused to accept for almost eight decades," said the professor, who asked not to be identified.

The decision could finally put to rest an issue that created instability in the region long before President Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion brought it before the world.

Known to the ancient world as Mesopotamia, Iraq later formed part of Turkey's Ottoman empire until World War I when it came under British rule.

Emir Faisal Ben Hussein, a member of the Hashemite Dynasty, became king in 1921 and the country regained full independence from Britain in 1952.

A military coup toppled the monarchy in 1958 and set off a period of political instability. The left-wing nationalist government of Brigadier Abdul Karim Qasim took over, ending Iraq's pro-Western stance.

A second coup by the military pan-Arab forces ousted Qasim five years later and the new leaders developed closer ties with Egypt. Martial law was lifted in 1965 and a civilian government inaugurated.

The Sunnis-dominated



'SAFE HOUSE': A view of the house in Bir Nabala, just north of Jerusalem, where Corporal Nachshon Waxman was held hostage by members of the Islamic Hamas movement on Friday (AFP photo)

Nasiriyah in centre of new U.S.-Iraqi dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Thousands of Iraqi crack troops digging in around the southern city of Nasiriyah could be back near the Kuwaiti border in a flash if their leader gave the signal.

The desert city, about 160 kilometres north of Kuwait, is linked to the border region by a modern four-lane motorway and a rail line which would provide quick and smooth transportation for any troop movements.

The road was used by Iraqi troops massing for the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait. U.S. forces also used the road when they reached the outskirts of the town near the end of the 1991 Gulf war. They did not enter Nasiriyah itself.

Only a day before Iraq agreed to recognise Kuwait, Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh, a senior member of the Baath Party, ruled out any such thing while sanctions continued. Mr. Saleh attended meetings chaired by President Saddam two days earlier.

"This shows Iraq had no alternative but to recognise Kuwait and the new borders," one diplomat said. "They (Iraqis) finally realised that lifting of sanctions is better than historical claims on Kuwait."

Iraq has already revised textbooks, which no longer refer to Kuwait as its territory. The next step will be to educate the new generation that Kuwait has internationally recognised boundaries their own government now accepts.

After the conflict, the highway became known as "the death road" because of the large number of retreating Iraqi soldiers killed along it in raids by allied warplanes.

Nasiriyah is located near the ruins of ancient Sumerian city of Ur, Biblical home of Abraham. Founded in 1870, the town is the capital of marshy, date-growing province of Dhiwar and has about 150,000 inhabitants.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry told reporters in Kuwait Friday that more than 10,000 Iraqi soldiers appear to be digging in at Nasiriyah.

Washington wants Iraq to pull back all its troops moved south of the 32nd Parallel

since last week, when it started the buildup near Kuwait. The parallel — which is also the northern boundary of the allied "no-fly" zone established after the Gulf war — runs about 100 kilometres further north. Iraq said it has kept a unit of its Republican Guards at a camp near Nasiriyah since 1991. Iraq has long maintained a strong military presence in the province, with at least one armoured Republican Guard division there to prevent a repeat of the 1991 insurgency in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Nasiriyah was one of the centres of the rebellion against the regime by members of the country's Shiite

Muslim majority, who are concentrated in the south. The rebellion was put down by the same Republican Guard forces, who mercilessly pounded Nasiriyah and other cities with tanks and artillery fire.

Despite the military presence, most of the highway and other routes are controlled by bandits, army deserters or anti-government rebels.

They have made the area unsafe for civilians and sometimes even military vehicles — as a group of foreign journalists on a government-guided tour found out this week when they were robbed of thousands of dollars worth of equipment and valuables.

Iran voices distrust of U.S. presence in Gulf

JAKARTA (AP) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday expressed distrust over Washington's motive in sending troops to the Gulf and of an Iraqi commitment to respect Kuwaiti borders.

The Iranian president also criticised the Norwegian Nobel Committee for awarding this year's peace prize to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose government, Mr. Rafsanjani said, had "created four million refugees."

Mr. Rafsanjani said he welcomed any efforts aimed at the "prevention of aggres-

sion and adventurism," but added that Washington's reasoning behind building up its military presence in the Gulf was based more on self-interest.

Mr. Rafsanjani told a press conference marking the end of a three-day visit to Indonesia that he did not see any goodwill in the U.S. position over the situation in the Gulf.

"Considering the area, which is rich in oil and petroleum gas, the presence of the U.S. is just after the objectives and aim of the domination over such a valuable region and its assets," he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani also said he doubted Iraq's announced recognition of Kuwait's post-Gulf war border, and said, "We do not have any good

experiences with the commitments made by Iraq."

He said Iraq had launched a war against Iran despite an agreement on borders signed by the two countries in Algeria in 1975.

If Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's borders is "sincere," that shall be good news," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "But we do hope this position will not be taken because of the weaknesses and the dangers that they have placed themselves in."

Mr. Rafsanjani also criticised the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Yitzhak Rabin.

Iraqis feel their lives, not the government, crumbling

By Nell Macfarquhar

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The counters at Iraqi Airways offices are staffed every morning despite a complete lack of flights to anywhere since the 1991 Gulf war.

Traffic hums across rebuilt bridges, but dirt and garbage collect on streets that once were pristine. A chicken costs an average month's salary.

Iraqis, exhausted by keeping up the facade of normalcy, said Tuesday that the country is crumbling under the weight of an international blockade that has little chance of toppling President Saddam Hussein.

"People want to eat. People want to live in peace. They don't care about the regime. They don't care much about educating themselves. They have lost their ambition," said a schoolteacher named Walid.

There is a sense of relief

that a looming confrontation, brought about by last week's deployment of Iraqi troops near the Kuwaiti border, may be ebbing. After the United States vowed to confront might with might, the Iraqis declared Monday night they were pulling their forces back. The United States, however, is unconvinced.

Foreign diplomats in Baghdad doubt that Iraq is about to repeat its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a seven-month occupation that was ended by a U.S.-led military coalition during the Gulf war.

Iraq was schooled in the old Soviet Union's military tactics, which called for an invading army to have a three-to-one ratio over its target, the diplomats noted, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq has sent an estimated 80,000 troops — one-fifth of its entire military — to the

Kuwaiti border region. Even if Iraq is not pulling them back, that is not enough to oppose the U.S. force of 70,000 that has been summoned to the area.

Iraqis and foreign diplomats say Iraq's threats to use its army again were a desperate ploy that worked: It grabbed the world's attention, pushing the United Nations trade sanctions back into the spotlight.

Iraqi feel their country has been complying with U.N. conditions for lifting the sanctions, which were imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq met one of the main conditions by allowing the U.N. to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and to set up a monitoring system. It hopes an upcoming report by the U.N. Special Commission will lead to a lifting of the sanctions, which cut off oil exports, Iraq's main source of revenue.

In a sign of the chaos that has seeped across the country

since the war ended in February 1991, highway robbers

grabbed tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and cash from journalists who travelled by bus to Basra Monday night.

Iraqis say they no longer have the energy to oppose the rule of Saddam Hussein. They are too busy trying to survive.

A chicken costs 750 dinars, about the average monthly wage of a government worker. That is \$2,490 at the official rate, which has not changed since the war. But at the widely used market rate, it is only \$1.20.

Government food rations recently were cut about 40 per cent. Before the cut, the rations of basics like rice and flour were considered the minimum needed to survive.

Medicine is scarce. The U.N. sanctions allow Iraq to import food and medicine, but it doesn't have the money to pay for them. One woman

only succeeded in toppling the people," he said.

Mohammad, like most

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Government food r



PRESENTING CREDENTIALS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Saturday discusses bilateral relations with Denmark's Ambassador-Designate to Jordan Anders Brandstrup who presented his credentials to the minister earlier (Petra photo)

Inspection, control bureau reports it saved state treasury JD 2.2m

AMMAN (Petra) — In the past four months alone, the efforts of the Administrative Inspection and Control Bureau have saved the state treasury JD 2.221 million, according to acting bureau chief Eid Shakhanbeh.

Also, Dr. Shakhanbeh said, the bureau's examination of 14 government departments during the same period, uncovered and rectified 151 violations.

While conducting its work, bureau inspectors provided advice on the restructuring of departments, and on keeping accurate records and registers of their activities and staff performance. Dr. Shakhanbeh added.

The chief said the bureau

has been urging government offices to abide by regulations stipulated in the Civil Service Commission's statute concerning allowances for employees, selection of staff and appointments and matters regarding supply and purchases as well as controlling expenditures.

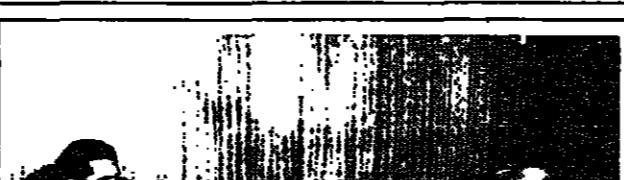
Referring to semi-independent companies, in which the state holds equity, Dr. Shakhanbeh said that a related study of these companies' performance for 1991, 1992 and 1993 will be submitted to the Prime Ministry.

At present the bureau is preparing recommendations to the government concerning the status and service of

legal consultants attached to government departments and questions related to the extra allowances given to employees in certain departments, Dr. Shakhanbeh announced.

The bureau, he said, welcomes comments, complaints and grievances by government officials, and to date, it has dealt with 50 such cases in correcting related problems.

In a bid to fulfil the government's aim of establishing a decentralised system, Dr. Shakhanbeh said the bureau plans to open two branches in Irbid and Aqaba to deal with issues concerning government departments in the north and south of Jordan respectively.



REVIEWING EDUCATIONAL TIES: Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh meets at his office Saturday with Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Naser Abdul Aziz Al Naser. The ambassador delivered an invitation to the minister to visit Qatar next month to sign an executive programme for the implementation of a Jordanian-Qatari cultural, educational and scientific agreement for the years 1994 through 1996 (Petra photo)

Women's organisations in battle over name

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Woman's Union (JWU) recently issued a statement condemning what it sees as slanderous attacks on the union since changing its name last April.

The statement said that the union had been subjected to a hostile campaign, including accusations of embezzlement within the union.

"We assure every one that the union's financial documents, reports and the annual budget are clear and precise and have been conducted according to the union's by-laws, and we can prove it," said Asma Khader,

president of the JWU.

In addition, Ms. Khader said that since the name alteration, the union has been excluded from major events.

On July 28, the union officially changed its name from the Jordanian Women's Union to the Jordanian Woman's Union. The change was effectively minor; from the plural, women's to the singular, woman's.

The union's move came in response to a Ministry of Social Development request to either merge with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) or change its name. The union opted for the name change.

Ms. Khader said hostilities reached a peak when the GFJW filed a law suit against

the JWU as well as against Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, who had signed the approval for the JWU's name and by-laws changes.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the GFJW, told the Jordan Times that there were several reasons why her organisation filed suit.

First, she said that the name change caused confusion among people, and "they can not distinguish between the two unions any more."

She also said that "the Minister of Interior is not the concerned authority to register or change the name and internal laws of such unions."

She added that the word "union" does not apply to the JWU because it accepts single

memberships. And, according to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, "unions usually accept group members, not individual membership, hence, the name union should not apply to the JWU, and instead they should be referred to as a society."

According to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, the GFJW had asked the JWU to merge with them and suggested changing a section in the GFJW by-laws to accept the JWU, but the union refused the idea.

Ms. Khader, on the other hand said that the word "union" applies perfectly to the JWU, and that "the GFJW should actually change its name because they only accept group memberships."

"Any woman can join our union, but the GFJW only accepts group members," Ms. Khader told the Jordan Times.

She added that the JWU has been registered as a union since 1974, while the

GFJW was registered in 1982.

"I don't understand why the GFJW is arguing about our registration, we were registered nearly eight years before they even existed," Ms. Khader said.

According to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, the GFJW had asked the JWU to merge with them and suggested changing a section in the GFJW by-laws to accept the JWU, but the union refused the idea.

But Ms. Khader maintained that it was she who had suggested the merger, and that it was the GFJW who had refused.

The case will be heard in court on Oct. 22, Ms. Khader said.

Czech envoy sees hope for expansion of bilateral ties

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The potential for regional stability in the wake of the Middle East peace process, and the transformation of the Czech Republic to a democratic, parliamentary constitution, augurs well for the intensification of relations between Jordan and the republic, Czech Charge d'Affaires Karel Risinger told the Jordan Times.

"Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have always been friendly. We believe that conditions are now very favourable for an expansion of relations in different fields of cooperation — in trade, cultural exchange, education etc.," said Mr. Risinger.

"The Czech Republic has traditionally maintained intensive relations with the Arab World, which is geographically located so close to Europe and the stability of which has been considered in our country as very important, not just for this region but for Europe as well."

This slow, quiet extinction, marked by only occasional acts of truly spectacular bloodletting and instead leaving its tracks quietly, inch by inch, as villages and neighbourhoods fade out one by one, is perhaps the most eerie aspect of what has happened over the last century.

Never mind that the stage performance of the drama in Darat Al Funun, which expanded on the original radio soundtrack with choreographed actor-

subsidiaries and other measures, has necessitated the passing of parliamentary bills and the introduction of institutions organised to serve the transformation's needs. Mr. Risinger told the Jordan Times.

The Czech Republic will be celebrating its national day on Oct. 28.

Despite more than six years of Nazi occupation and 40 years of communist rule, Mr. Risinger says that the Czech nation has always considered the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 as the beginning of its contemporary statehood.

At the end of 1989, "the constitution of the country was changed, thus legally terminating the role of the Communist Party as 'the leading force' in the society," Mr. Risinger said.

Since the 1989 election of Vaclav Havel as President of Czechoslovakia, economic transformation, including privatisation, liberalisation of prices, foreign trade and currency exchange rates, abolition of state

Currently, bilateral trade

is small. Mr. Risinger estimated that Czech exports to Jordan stand at \$8.5 million annually, while Jordanian exports to the republic account for "some several hundred thousand dollars."

The main Jordanian import from the Czech Republic is small cars, he added.

Regarding foreign debts, he said that Jordan had no standing debts with the republic.

Mr. Risinger also said, "the Czech Republic's current position of development is not conducive to aiding projects here."

In addition to encouraging Czech investment in Jordan, he said, "the stability of the region is one incentive, but the two countries need to gain experience of one another as neither the Czech market nor Jordanian companies are well-known."

"We believe that the exchange of delegations will follow in favour of better mutual understanding and promotion of intensive cooperation," Mr. Risinger concluded.

Mr. Risinger, who was appointed charge d'affaires last December, was the first assigned Czech representative to the Kingdom in two and a half years.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SEMINAR

★ Seminar entitled "Social and Political Structures in the Orient and Occident" with the participation of Dr. Volker Perthes, Dr. Arnold Hottinger, and Dr. Mohammad Kheir Mustafa at Abdul Hameed Sharaf Auditorium, University of Jordan at 3:30 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert by Czech Kubelik Trio with violinist Jan Talich, cellist Karel Fiala, and pianist Kvita Bilynska at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Arachnophobia" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY

★ Play entitled "A Journey Through American Comedy" by the Artists Repertory Group at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Has the Time Come for Lifting the Sanctions Imposed on the Iraqi People — the Available Options" by Dr. Ghassan Al Atiyah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.



TAKING UP WOMEN'S ISSUES: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday receives at her office a group of Arab-Israeli women who are part of a 65-member delegation accompanying Israeli Knesset member Abdul Wahab Darawshe. The Princess and the team discussed women's affairs. The visiting women briefed the Princess on the Arab women's unions

under Israeli rule which are concerned with cultural, educational, social and political fields. Princess Basma briefed the visitors on the activities of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) and also outlined the Jordanian women's strategy and current preparations for the Kingdom's participation in the world conference on women to be held in Beijing next year. (Petra photo)

Aqaba Ports Corporation to start second phase of dust control

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of the beginning of 1995 the Aqaba Ports Corporation (APC) will start the second phase of a pollution elimination project targeting phosphate dust pollution, according to Yousef Salah, director of the port's platforms and quays.

Mr. Salah, an engineer, said phosphate dust falls during the loading of the mineral from stores to shipping vessels.

Speaking at a ceremony held in Aqaba to mark the Arab Environment Day Saturday, Mr. Salah said the APC has succeeded in eliminating nearly 90 per cent of the falling dust through the installation of two choke

feeder systems (dust control devices) at the cost of \$50,000 in the past year.

The second phase, he said, entails cutting down on dust pollution resulting from the unloading of phosphates from transport trucks to the stores at the harbour. He added that this phase is expected to cost JD 250,000.

A third phase, according to Mr. Salah, will seek to eliminate dust pollution from the transport of phosphate by trains to the stores, at an expected cost of JD 500,000.

He also said that the municipality has been allocating JD 120,000 each year for the plantation of trees and the cultivation of gardens to help purify and beautify the Aqaba area.

World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994 5

Over 2,000 ex-soldiers train for Rwanda's new army

KIGALI (AFP) — More than 2,000 soldiers from Rwanda's former army, defeated in July by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), are training at a camp at Gako in the south in order to join the country's new military, U.N. officials said Saturday in Kigali.

Rwandan Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said Wednesday that a high number of former soldiers who had left the country after their defeat in three months of conflict have decided to return to Rwanda for "political education."

General Kagame did not specify how many former soldiers were returning.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) commander, General Guy Toussaint, visited the Gako military camp Friday and called it a "reorganisation school," in a U.N. statement, UNAMIR military spokesman Captain Stephane Grenier said.

"Although the United Nations force in Rwanda comprises troops from 29 nations, we can only play a small part in the rebuilding process of Rwanda," Gen. Toussaint said, telling the troops that "the solution is yours. You have demonstrated a great deal of courage by joining this new national army."

Capt. Grenier said that there are 78 officers at the Gako camp.

The soldiers of the former Hutu-dominated army, who were refugees in Zaire or in the former French humanitarian zone in southwest Rwanda, decided to rejoin the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), the military wing of the Tutsi-led RPF.

Some 20,000 former army troops are still in refugee camps, where some have expressed a desire to return and serve in the new armed forces.

The RPF accuses some former soldiers and extremist Hutu militias of the massacre of up to a million people in the weeks after Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6.

Capt. Grenier also said that the arrival over the last 10 days of some 800 Tunisian soldiers had brought the strength of U.N. mission to 5,433 men, almost the full strength of 5,500 envisaged by the Security Council in May.

A further 700 Zambian and 800 Indian troops are expected in the next few weeks, but UNAMIR will only be over strength for a transition period before 580 British troops leave in November and 364 Canadians in January, he added.

Apart from Tunisia, whose 846 men are mainly deployed in the northwest of the central African highland nation, the largest contingents are those from Ghana (819 men) and Ethiopia (800 men).

UNAMIR was set up in October 1993 to oversee a Rwandan peace accord signed in August that year between the government and the RPF, which had launched its incursion from Uganda in 1990.

Many RPF troops were long-term Tutsi exiles who had served in the Ugandan army. The peace pact, left largely in tatters when the latest bloodletting began, provided for the kind of power-sharing now in practice, though the late President Habyarimana's party is excluded.

Meanwhile, the Security Council asked Rwanda's government Friday to work for national reconciliation, and said regional stabilisation depended on refugees' returning home.

The council said in a statement adopted by consensus that it was deeply concerned about the fate of millions of refugees and displaced people in Rwanda and neighbouring countries who fled from ethnic bloodshed since April.

It also condemned acts of intimidation and violence it said were continuing in refugee camps to try to deter people from returning to their homes.

And it praised the governments of Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi for their commitment to helping to settle the problems from which refugees were fleeing.

The council also urged the new Tutsi-led Rwandan government to continue its dialogue with all political groups in

Bosnian Serb shelling again blocks Sarajevo aid convoys

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations closed the main aid route from the Adriatic to Sarajevo Saturday for the second day running after evacuating about 30 old people from a refugee camp hit when Bosnian Serb forces shelled the road.

Workers from the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) completed the evacuation and tried to reopen the road between Mostar and Jablanica at 5 a.m. (0400 GMT). They were forced to close it again when the bombardment resumed a short time later.

"I think they have seen us evacuating the refugees," said Jerry Hulme of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees. "They believe it is possible that the commander of this particular, rather stubborn group may be acting on his own initiative."

The United Nations said it expected an upsurge of fighting in the Gorazde pocket east of Sarajevo after learning that the local hospital had been instructed to make space available in its wards.

"We believe there is likely to be an increase in military activity during the course of the next few days," Lt. Col. Spicer said.

Bosnian Serb forces almost

overran the U.N.-protected safe haven of Gorazde town this year but were forced to halt their offensive under threat of NATO air strikes.

The town is surrounded by Serb infantry forces occupying a 20-kilometres radius heavy-weapons-exclusion zone monitored by the United Nations.

NATO has become concerned that long gaps between violations of exclusion zones in Bosnia and the go-ahead to conduct air strikes are endangering its pilots.

U.N. sources have said

their major fear is that more robust action would mean hitting targets in areas not related to where the offensive took place, leading to further confrontations.

NATO sources say they believe the U.N., as well as worrying about the safety of its blue helmet troops in Bosnia, also fears it will lose control of the military option.

The sources said, however, that NATO simply wants to make its air strike policy more efficient and has no intention of taking over control from the U.N.

"NATO has always said it will use the dual key," said another source.

"Dual key" is NATO jargon for the current system under which U.N. commanders call in a NATO air strike.

U.N. officials said earlier this week that a possible compromise between NATO desires and U.N. concerns could include a more rapid response when offences occurred and more damage to the offending unit and weapons system.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic firmly rejected Friday a proposal by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to authorise Bosnian Serbs to form a confederation with Serbia.

In a letter addressed to France's partners in the five-nation contact group, Mr. Izetbegovic said that the "parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina accepted the international peace plan because the integrity of the country was guaranteed and because it got assurances that would be asked of it."



A Bosnian Muslim prays by her son's grave at the Kovaci military cemetery in the capital Sarajevo. Her son, Nuhic Samir, was killed in fighting in 1992 (AFP photo)

Rebels attack Chechen capital

GROZNY (AFP) — The Russian-backed opposition to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev Saturday launched helicopter attacks on the capital of the Caucasian breakaway republic as its forces gathered on the city outskirts, according to an AFP correspondent.

Helicopters fired four rockets at the city centre, hitting the 16th floor of a building. Several people were reported hurt in fire.

Meanwhile, seven tanks loyal to Mr. Dudayev had surrounded the presidential palace.

Earlier in the day opposition Provisional Council had said in a statement its forces had carried out helicopter strikes against government

military posts in suburban Grozny Saturday morning.

The opposition forces, under the command of rebel leader Umar Avtukhanov, said Mr. Dudayev's troops had been forced to retreat from the suburbs and were headed toward central Grozny.

Chechen rebel forces have been trying to overthrow Mr. Dudayev's government since the beginning of September.

ITAR-TASS had earlier reported that helicopter strikes had been launched in two areas, in Urus-Martan, south of Grozny, and in Tolstoy-Yurt in the north.

In an interview published by the Moscow newspaper Izvestia Saturday, Mr. Avtukhanov, where between four and 10 people were killed.

No U.S.-N. Korea nuke accord after top envoys resume talks

GENEVA (AFP) — U.S. and North Korean negotiators failed to reach an accord Saturday, the top U.S. envoy said, after two hours of talks billed as putting the final touches to an agreement eliminating Pyongyang's capacity to acquire nuclear weapons.

Neither of the two delegations made a statement when the talks resumed at noon (1100 GMT), but that fact that it involved the top envoys — U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Gallucci and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju — was seen as indicating some progress had been made.

But after the talks Mr. Gallucci told reporters an accord had still not been reached, although his team said the delegations' respective heads could meet again during the afternoon.

Earlier, expectations that

an agreement was imminent were raised after South Korean Vice Premier Lee Hong-Koo told parliament in Seoul Friday that the bilateral deal would probably be completed before the end of the weekend.

A senior State Department official had also late Friday confirmed in Washington an agreement was in sight.

"We believe that we are on the edge of a possibly major agreement," said Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs. But short afterwards a State Department spokeswoman, Christine Shelley, tried to temper that optimism by saying Mr. Lord had merely reacted to Mr. Lee's comments.

Other department officials reported Mr. Gallucci was "astounded" to hear that Mr. Lord had predicted that an agreement was in sight after

nearly three weeks of talks.

In Geneva, U.S. officials told reporters Friday night that Mr. Gallucci and the north Korean vice-foreign minister, who had left their experts wrangling with complex issues for the last four days, would only meet once that work would be completed.

"We believe that we are on the edge of a possibly major agreement," said Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs. But short afterwards a State Department spokeswoman, Christine Shelley, tried to temper that optimism by saying Mr. Lord had merely reacted to Mr. Lee's comments.

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nearly three weeks of talks.

The first round of talks between the LTTE and the government opened Thursday and both sides are expected to resume negotiations within about 10 days although no firm date has been fixed.

"It was a very satisfactory discussion that has paved the way for future talks and a cessation of hostilities," said the leader of the government team, Kusumisri Balapatabendi, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese community.

He said he had carried a message from Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga to LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran that the priority of her new government was to reduce the hardships on minority Tamils and bring about an early ceasefire.

"It was warmly reciprocated," said Mr. Balapatabendi.

The LTTE is known to hold 19 policemen, 20 soldiers, seven sailors and several more fishermen from the majority Sinhalese ethnic community captured by the

German campaigners take a break before polls

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and challenger Rudolf Scharping took a break from campaigning Saturday, the last day before German elections that opinion polls say could be a cliffhanger.

The contenders earlier wrapped up their campaigns with impassioned appeals to voters in an attempt to clinch a handful of votes which could decide Sunday's outcome.

The last confrontation between rebels and Chechen governmental forces was Thursday in the Urus-Martan region, the fief of opposition military chief Beslan Gantemirov, where between four and 10 people were killed.

The last confrontation between rebels and Chechen governmental forces was Thursday in the Urus-Martan region, the fief of opposition military chief Beslan Gantemirov, where between four and 10 people were killed.

"Scharping is relaxing at home today," an SPD spokesman told reporters about the party leader, who lives in the town of Lahnstein on the Rhine River.

Only the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), nervous about their chances of returning

as junior partners to Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), took a final shot at campaigning with an advertisement in national newspapers.

The advertisement, placed by FDP supporters who said they were not party members, argued against fears among some would-be FDP voters that the small party would crash out of the parliament in Bonn, as it has in six local elections and a European vote in the past year.

"Your vote for the FDP is not wasted," the text read, noting that recent opinion polls put support for the liberals at between six and eight per cent, above the five per cent minimum required to enter German legislatures.

The latest opinion survey, from the Allenbach Institute, gave Mr. Kohl's coalition 48.5 per cent of the vote against 47.5 per cent for the combined opposition of the SPD, Greens and reformed

communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

Newspaper commentators said the close contest between Mr. Kohl's centrist-right coalition and the leftist opposition was no surprise because the major parties, the CDU and SPD, were increasingly merging in the political center.

"The choice becomes more of an ordeal because the two big mass parties are so similar in their goals and views and have to be that way: In large sections of society, they are courting the same voters," the Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung said.

Although Mr. Kohl's CDU is projected by opinion polls to get the highest number of seats in the new parliament, the complexities of German coalition politics mean it by no means clear what kind of government will emerge.

A slight increase in the opposition vote could mean the PDS — successors to East

soon in N. Korea — report

father's mantle. He has not appeared in public since the late "great leader."

Kim Il-Sung designated his pudgy, bespectacled son back in the 1970s as heir-apparent to his father, President Kim Il-Sung, who died in July, news reports said Saturday.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, quoting a diplomatic source in Seoul, said the party Central Committee would give its stamp of approval a day or two after Mr. Kim, 52, attends a mass rally Sunday marking the end

of 100 days of mourning for the late "great leader."

Kim Il-Sung designated his pudgy, bespectacled son back in the 1970s as heir-apparent to the obsessively secretive Stalinist state.

Ever since the president's sudden death on July 8 at the age of 82, the strictly controlled Pyongyang press has treated Mr. Kim Jong-Il as the nation's leader.

Yet until now there has

been no confirmation he had

formally taken over his

father's mantle.

He has not

appeared in public since

funeral rites for his father in

Pyongyang on July 20, raising

speculation he might be ill or

face internal rivals.

Yonhap's source said he was

now due to reappear at

Sunday's mass rally.

"We have gathered in

information that Kim Jong-Il

will attend a rally on the 16th

to mark his father's 100-day

mourning," the source said.

"Then North Korea will

call a Communist Party Cen-

tral Committee meeting

either on the 17th or 18th to

elect Kim Jong-Il as party

chief."

The source said his election

to the state presidency, the

other key leadership post,

would come later.

"North Korea needs to

hold a meeting of the Sup-

reme People's Assembly

(rubberstamp parliament)

to elect a president, and it

hasn't done that yet," the</

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

Arabic: جريدة الأردنية للأنباء

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Gulf between East, West

RUSSIA'S DIPLOMATIC initiative to defuse the recent Gulf crisis is important on two counts. First, the trip by the foreign minister of Russia, Andre Kozyrev, to Baghdad in the wake of the escalation of tension in the area marks what could be a fresh beginning for Russian diplomacy in the Middle East after a long hiatus brought about by the demise of the communist order in the former Soviet Union. Second, because the Kozyrev mission succeeded in winning a major Iraqi concession in the form of according recognition to Kuwait in return for a clear commitment from the international community to lifting the sanctions still imposed on Iraq.

But the repercussions of the Russian-brokered deal in Baghdad has already caused confusion among the Western allies who were caught off guard by the sudden Russian "breakthrough" in Baghdad. The once solid Western alliance now appears to be cracking under the weight of Russian and French opposition to overreaction to the recent massing of Iraqi soldiers near the Kuwaiti border. The split between the allied countries on how to deal with Iraq in the wake of recent events took a negative turn when the French defence minister, Francois Leotard, alluded to domestic U.S. considerations as the basis for Washington's decision to overreact to the Iraqi military move.

That the permanent members of the Security Council no longer see eye to eye on Iraq is a foregone conclusion. The division of opinion between London and Washington on the one hand and Paris, Moscow and Beijing on the other has been in the making for sometime now with both Russia and France poised to strike lucrative business deals with Iraq once it is rehabilitated and the embargo on its oil exports is lifted. As recognition of Kuwait by Iraq constitutes a major step towards securing stability in the Gulf, we strongly believe that Iraq's offer must be taken up seriously and expeditiously. This Iraqi offer presents the most viable opportunity for a permanent resolution of the tension between the two Arab countries. It is an opportunity that should not be missed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday severely criticised the Nobel Prize committee for granting the Israeli Premier and Foreign Minister two thirds of the 1994 peace prize, saying that the two Israeli leaders are at the head of a state bent on aggression. These two men are still holding firmly on to the traditional Zionist policy expansion and racial discrimination and the continue to ignore bids for releasing thousands of Arab detainees from Israeli jails, the writer said. The writer said that the Nobel prize was given at a time when the Israelis are still occupying lands belonging to four Arab states, and despite their total disregard to calls for giving back the Palestinian people their legitimate rights in their own homeland. The writer said he had wanted to see the implementation of the Oslo deal, which constituted the basis for the prize because the Israelis are not implementing that deal, said the writer.

AL DUSTOUR daily discussed Iraq's acceptance of a Russian peace plan primarily providing for Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait's borders and the emirate's sovereignty, describing the move as a step in the right direction. The Russians have now achieved a very positive development which calls for deep satisfaction as it could mark the end of the new Gulf crisis and serve as a harbinger for ending the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, said the paper. Saying that Iraq has now for the first time recognised the United Nations, the paper said, Iraq deserves to be lifted from the U.N. sanctions. Indeed, the recognition of Kuwait and its borders leaves no ground for perpetuating the sanctions and should pave the ground for Kuwait to reciprocate the Iraqi move by extending a helping hand to the Iraqi people, said the daily. It called on Kuwait's rulers to seize this opportunity and contribute towards a lasting stability and security in the Gulf region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Much to lose in Casablanca conference

THE INTERNATIONAL economic development conference scheduled to take place in Casablanca, Morocco, is drawing a lot of publicity and expectations. The conference is being projected as an historic turning point in the economic development and prosperity of the Middle East, something similar to the Marshall Plan, which helped Western Europe to recover and prosper after the end of World War II. It is also being presented as the platform to announce the birth of the so-called Middle East market, a code name for merging Israel with the Middle East or, if you will, annexing the Middle East to Israel.

It is of course too risky to prejudge the conference or speculate about its outcome. Fifty states and 800 multinational corporations were invited to attend it, over and above the relevant international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is obviously an unprecedented large-scale international demonstration since Britain woods, which no country in the Middle East can afford to ignore.

This writer is a supporter of the current peace process. Therefore, the reservations expressed here do not stem from political or ideological considerations. They are the result of an objective reading and an attempt to evaluate the expected outcome from a Jordanian national interest viewpoint.

In the first place, the conference is expected to emphasise the role of the private sector and private companies, not in the Middle East countries only but in the donors side as well in the economic development process. This may mean that the donor states are trying to avoid making commitments of direct state to state aid. Private companies are after profits. They calculate the profitability of any project with utmost accuracy. They don't respond to well

written speeches which will be delivered in the conference by political stars who don't even claim to be objective or impartial. Corporations don't respond to the so-called encouragement of their governments. Conference or no conference, if investments in the Middle East became feasible, the multi-national corporation will invest. What counts are the rate of expected return and the degree of risk involved. The last thing that the bosses of such corporations worry about is to support and reinforce peace in the Middle East. Those bosses will use the conference to meet each other in Casablanca and make deals among themselves. They will not go to Casablanca to make decisions to invest or finance projects in Jordan, Syria, or Palestine in order for peace to develop strong roots.

On the other hand, the establishment of the Middle East Bank for Development may be a sure indication that Jordan will not receive the hoped for grants and assistance to finance development. The bank will definitely be run on commercial basis. It will not deal in grants or, for that matter, reduced interest rates. The bank's shareholders may even expect high dividends at the expense of the borrowers.

If development in Jordan is to be funded through the Development Bank of the Middle East, the end result will be development by debt. The result is tested and well known: An artificial and temporary prosperity when we start spending the money on projects, followed by a crisis and retreat when the instalments start to fall due.

Finally, Israel must declare its firm readiness to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Golan Heights and southern Lebanon before its leaders may be allowed to shine in the Middle East conference side by side with Arab leaders.

Berber question returns to haunt troubled Algeria

By Francis Ghiles

THE RECENT kidnapping in Algeria of the Berber singer Louou Matoub has again raised the issue that has haunted modern Algeria — the Berber question, or, to be more precise, the Kabyle question.

Mr. Matoub is a militant of the Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) which calls for Berber to be treated as a "national" language in Algeria, on a par with Arabic, and for it to be taught in all schools.

As provocative as he is popular, Mr. Matoub recently claimed he was "neither an Arab nor a Muslim" and argued that the Kabyle Berber heartland, a mountainous region 150 km east of Algiers, should be granted autonomous political status.

His latest record, *Kenza*, is dedicated to the daughter of Tahar Djaout, a Kabyle writer and polemicist who was murdered by supporters of radical Islam in June last year. Mr. Matoub is suspected of being held by a similar group. The singer's publicly expressed love of whisky has turned him into what Tahar Djaout was until his death, a man religious zealots love to hate.

Recently more than 100,000 people took part in a peaceful demonstration in the Berber capital of Tizi Ouzou marked by calls and threats for the safe return of Mr. Matoub.

The original inhabitants of North Africa were Berber

but the process of Arabisation, the adoption of Arabic

language and culture, has, over 13 centuries, left only a third of the Maghreb's 60m people with Berber as their mother tongue. Between 20 and 25 per cent of Algeria's 26m people speak Berber, two-thirds of them coming from Kabylia.

The Kabyles played a key role in Algeria's modern history, one quite out of proportion to their numbers.

Between the two world wars, emigrants from Kabylia formed the vast majority of Muslim Algerian labourers in France where they founded the first Algerian nationalist movement, *L'Etoile Nord Africaine*.

As trade unionists, and with the help of French Communist Party members, they became acquainted with modern ideologies and methods of resistance. The Etoile and its post-war successor, the Party Populaire Algérien, provided the fount of modern Algerian politics. The idea of independence for what had been for a century three French departments came from their ranks.

During the eight bloody years of the war of independence which started in 1954, the two Berber mountainous heartlands Kabylia and the Aurès mountains to the south, witnessed some of the worst fighting between French troops and the armed supporters of the Front de Libération National (FLN).

The leading ideologue of the FLN, Abane Ramdane, a Kabyle, was murdered by some of his peers in Morocco in 1959, an act which symbolised the events which were

to take place at independence in 1962 when those FLN leaders who had spent most of the war years in Morocco and Tunisia usurped power from those who had fought in the bush. This "betrayal", as it is now seen by many, opened a wound which has yet to be healed.

Despite the fact that Krim Belkacem, who led the talks at which France agreed to Algerian independence, was a Kabyle, the new rulers of Algeria, President Ahmad Ben Bella and — after he was ousted by a military coup in 1983 — Colonel Houari Boumediene, clamped down on the freedoms their countrymen had paid such a heavy price to win. All expression of Berber culture were forbidden and fast Arabisation imposed.

The MCB was born after riots in Tizi Ouzou in 1980 forced the new president, Colonel Chadli Bendjedid, to grant a greater measure of freedom. Singers such as Mr. Matoub, who had adapted old Kabyle songs to a more modern musical form, had already become popular. Music became a key vehicle for the expression of a culture and language whose alphabet is the old Phoenician script but has not been commonly written for centuries.

Like most of their countrymen, the Kabyles are not of one mind. The lines that fracture Algerian society run through every social group and region. After riots in 1988 broke the power of the FLN, two parties boasting a distinct "Kabyle" identity

The Financial Times

Arms and the middle men

Anthony Sampson

WAS the British arms deal with the Saudis in 1984-85 "properly negotiated", as Lady Thatcher insisted on Monday? Certainly it was in the tradition of proper negotiation in Saudi Arabia, where commissions have been an essential part of the process. Every big deal is seen as an opportunity to enrich members of the royal family and to spread favours to friends in the courts; and the total price of any project is increased to allow for commissions.

For the Saudis there was always the danger implicit in such arrangements that the commissions determined the orders. Much of the weaponry in the vast arsenals built up in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was scarcely relevant to their defence needs — as was embarrassingly evident in the Gulf war, when they had to rely on Western armories.

The Al Yamamah arms deals in 1985 and 1987 raised the stakes much higher. The sheer size of the first deal, worth around \$20 billion, was unprecedented; the claimants were becoming greedier, since Saudi revenues were diminishing as the oil price fell; and the commissions were running out of control.

There were several Saudi rivals for the spoils. A key figure was Prince Bandar, the ambassador to Washington and son of the



Wafic Said (left) with his wife (third left), son and the Thatcher family

minister of defence. Prince Sultan, who was present at the signing at Salzburg in July 1985. There was also Prince Sultan's close friend and agent in London, Wafic Said, who was a friend of the Thatchers and Jonathan Aitken.

There was also a more shadowy duo, the Ibrahim brothers, whose sister is King Fahd's favourite wife and mother to his adored son Prince Abdul Aziz. The Ibrahims, who live in London and run their own business from Bowater House, had become major players in several big deals. No one knew how much money they kept, and how much went to their nephew, the young prince. But their record commissions, collected with ruthless insistence, sent a wave of resentment through other Saudis — including minor princes who had missed out. The scale of payoffs was beginning to divide the royal family.

With the huge sums at stake, it would be surprising if some money did not find its way to the British side. It was part of normal Arab

etiquette to reward people who had been helpful in casting the deal, and with billions at stake, a few millions were like pocket money. To reward the son of the British prime minister — even if he gave no help — would be as usual as rewarding the King's son.

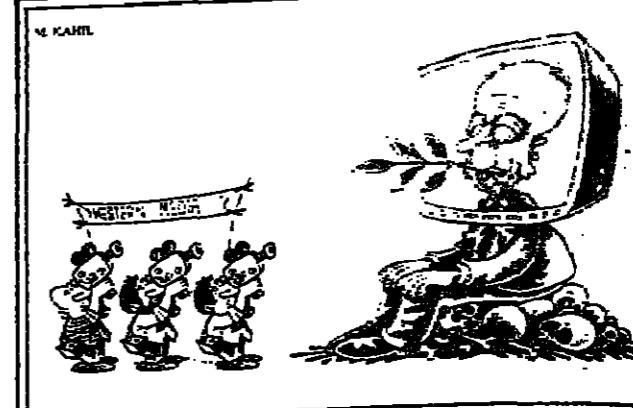
Arms deals, with their unique justification for secrecy, have always had rules of their own, and previous revelations from Washington have shown how easy it was to pay distinguished Westerners — including Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands to act as go-betweens.

The British Ministry of Defence, we now know, was itself not immune from serious corruption; for only in May a procurement officer, Gordon Foxley, was convicted and jailed for having received bribes worth more than £2 million to provide arms orders for European companies. That

disturbing story should have produced a major investigation into the ministry's safeguards.

In negotiating with Saudis, with their quite different attitude to payments, it is hard to ensure that deals are clean on the Western side even if corrupt on the other. The vast commissions of the 1980s were always likely to overflow into the West. So what does it mean to be "properly negotiated"? To the Saudis it means taking due note of the claims of the royal family, and traditional generosity towards friends. But to Westerners, that will mean two-way corruption — unless the whole negotiation is subjected to far more rigorous scrutiny than we have yet seen evidence of.

Anthony Sampson is the author of *The Arms Bazaar (Coronet)*. The article is reprinted from *The Times*.



The irony of Nobel prize

By Michael Jansen

IT IS deeply ironic that a fete should be made about the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat rather than about the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin because Mr. Rabin has, throughout his long career in the military, always been a man of uncompromising violence while Mr. Arafat has, since the early seventies, spoken of making peace with Israel.

Born in Jerusalem in 1922, Mr. Rabin was recruited into the elite pre-state Zionist force, the Palmach, which commanded the Harel brigade. During the siege of Jerusalem in the spring and early summer of 1948, he tried and failed to lift the Arab siege of the old city of Jerusalem. Stymied, the Israelis used the tactics of flooding the Arab armies — the Jordanian Arab Legion — with thousands of Palestinian refugees in order to distract them from the siege and loosen their grip on the city and on other strongpoints near Tel Aviv. Thus, on July 12-13, 1948 in response to an order issued on May 11 (before the creation of the Jewish state on the 15th) by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, Mr. Rabin urged his soldiers to break the bones of Palestinian demonstrators.

Once again prime minister in 1985, he supervised the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, keeping the "security zone" which had led to constant strife in the south of that country and in 1987, at the outbreak of the intifada. Mr. Rabin urged his soldiers to break the bones of Palestinian demonstrators. Since the signing of the Oslo accord on Sept. 13 last year, Mr. Rabin has done his best to stall the implementation of the deal and to change the terms of the agreement he signed while focusing Israeli efforts on strengthening and expanding Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza in order to ensure Israel's dominance in these areas of Palestinian autonomy.

By contrast, Yasser Arafat has done his level best, to the extent of destroying the credibility of the Oslo accord and undermining his position, to conciliate the Israelis while achieving minimal implementation of the provisions of the accord. If one were to choose between the two men for the award it should be Mr. Arafat, accused of being a "terrorist" by Klar Kristiansen, a member of the Nobel committee who has resigned.

Long way to go in reforming educational system

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some progress has been made in addressing profound weaknesses in Jordan's public school system since the 1989 launch of the 10-year Educational Reform Programme (ERP), but numerous woes still remain to be tackled, according to some experts.

"We are moving in the right direction with the passage of time," said one university professor of education who declined to be named. But, she admitted, "things are not always moving smoothly."

Media claims of a crisis state in many facets of the public system, which educates 79 per cent of Jordan's primary and secondary students, have echoed for some time. Numerous critics have decried, among other things, shoddy school facilities, incompetent and poorly-paid teachers, and failing morale among both teachers and students alike.

The criticism has come in spite of the fact that Jordan's public school system is, according to one expert, one of the better ones in the Third World in terms of guaranteeing a basic education to the vast majority of its younger citizens. "Experts internationally believe public education in Jordan is well ahead of the majority of other Third World countries in overall terms," said Victor Billeh of the government's National Centre for Education Research and Development (NCERD).

The Kingdom's entire school system underwent a mammoth quantitative expansion between 1970 and 1990. Existing schools more than doubled, from 1,508 to 3,254. Teachers more than quadrupled, from 11,700 to 43,780, and Jordan's pre-college student population exploded from 380,000 to 1.03 million.

Over two thirds of all Jordanians could neither read or write in 1961, but by 1993 that ratio was down to 15 per cent.

Jordan's public school sector was where the greater portion of the overall expansion took place, and thus it can boast impressive progress on "the quantitative level," Dr. Billeh said. "However, there was the general perception that quality had not kept pace with that expansion, and has actually dropped in some areas."

This perception was a major factor behind the drawing up of the ERP, he said. It was envisaged as a comprehensive overhaul of public schools along seven major tracks, including reforming textbooks and curriculum, upgrading teacher's qualifications, and improving educational facilities.

The plan further called for the participation of all Jordanian agencies which deal with education, including ministries, university faculties of education, and the Vocational Training Corporation.

"The government is also

spending a very large amount of effort and money on upgrading vocational training programmes," said the college professor.

"With today's job conditions, people now realise that having a trained job without a college degree is better than having the degree and finding no work."

Public sector vocational training was now "extremely strong," she said.

However, she felt the ERP had ignored the most crucial problem in public schools, what she maintained was a state of disaster in educating students in the first three primary grades due to vastly over-

crowded classes.

"We have many classes where 50, 60 or more students in this age category are sitting in one classroom," she said. "How can you do this at such a critical age?"

The alarming results, she maintained, were that "out of 50 children, only two, perhaps can read," in these grades.

She held that the early-age development of such grade learning deficiencies was the main factor behind high failure and dropout rates in the 4th through 10th grades.

A 1989 survey by the NCERD showed failures

and dropouts ranging between 10 to 20 per cent of students in those grades.

"The reforms must begin to focus on this critical area," she said. "Developing reading skills at the very young ages is the key to the whole learning process."

Both she and another education professor felt that the reforms had also lagged behind in another critical area by not changing the tawjih exam system.

The cumulative average of students who sat for the 1993-94 tawjih exams was 48.8 per cent, while the prescribed pass/fail margin for the exam is 50 per cent.

The second professor,

who also preferred anonymity, dismissed the credibility of the exams altogether, saying that "most of the material used in the tawjih is completely invalid."

Dr. Billeh said substantial changes in the form and content of the tawjih would be completed within the coming two years. Emphasis would be shifted towards measuring basic aptitudes and critical thinking and away from "memorisation."

Recommendations had also been made to drop the requirement that all students must succeed in the tawjih to graduate from secondary schools, he said.

Only those wishing to attend college would need to take the exam, and others would be granted a certificate as proof of graduation. The exemption from the tawjih would also include those wishing to work in the civil service, he added.

However, said the woman professor, a major fault in the tawjih system remained in the fact that during 12 years of primary and secondary education, no assessments are made of students' aptitudes and progress except the tawjih.

"It should not be a one-shot, win or lose deal," she said. "Universities must de-

velop other assessment tools besides the tawjih, and the public schools must develop ways to measure students' achievements throughout their 12-year education, not just through one exam given in the final grade."

Her colleague said he was "sceptical that any major changes will be made in the tawjih."

"It's been an established and institutionalised system for many years," he commented.

Of the problems cited by Dr. Billeh and the two professors, perhaps the most difficult situation to grapple with is the relatively low social regard held for public school teachers.

"Most of the people who train to be teachers are students with low tawjih scores, who thus could not pursue a college degree in another field and feel forced into what they are doing," said Dr. Billeh.

"About 80 per cent of the students at our teaching college are like this," said the male professor. "They are enquiring to see how they can transfer to another faculty almost as soon as they come to us." The overall result of this and other factors, he said, is that "teaching is not recognised as a valid and worthwhile profession."

"And since teachers are only human beings," he added, "you cannot expect them to be faithfully committed when they compare themselves to any falafel shop worker and find no difference in terms of social esteem."

He also felt that the ERP suffered serious organisational weaknesses due to a general lack of communication between the many institutions involved in the plan. "Directors and professors in the educational field here do not keep in touch with each other," he said. "There is very little coordination at the practical levels — no exchange visits, information networks or conferences."

"As a result, we have no idea what other universities are doing in the field, what the Ministry of Education is doing, what NCERD is doing, or what is actually happening in the schools. Such a comprehensive national plan needs close contacts and communication. And until now, from what I have seen, there have been none."

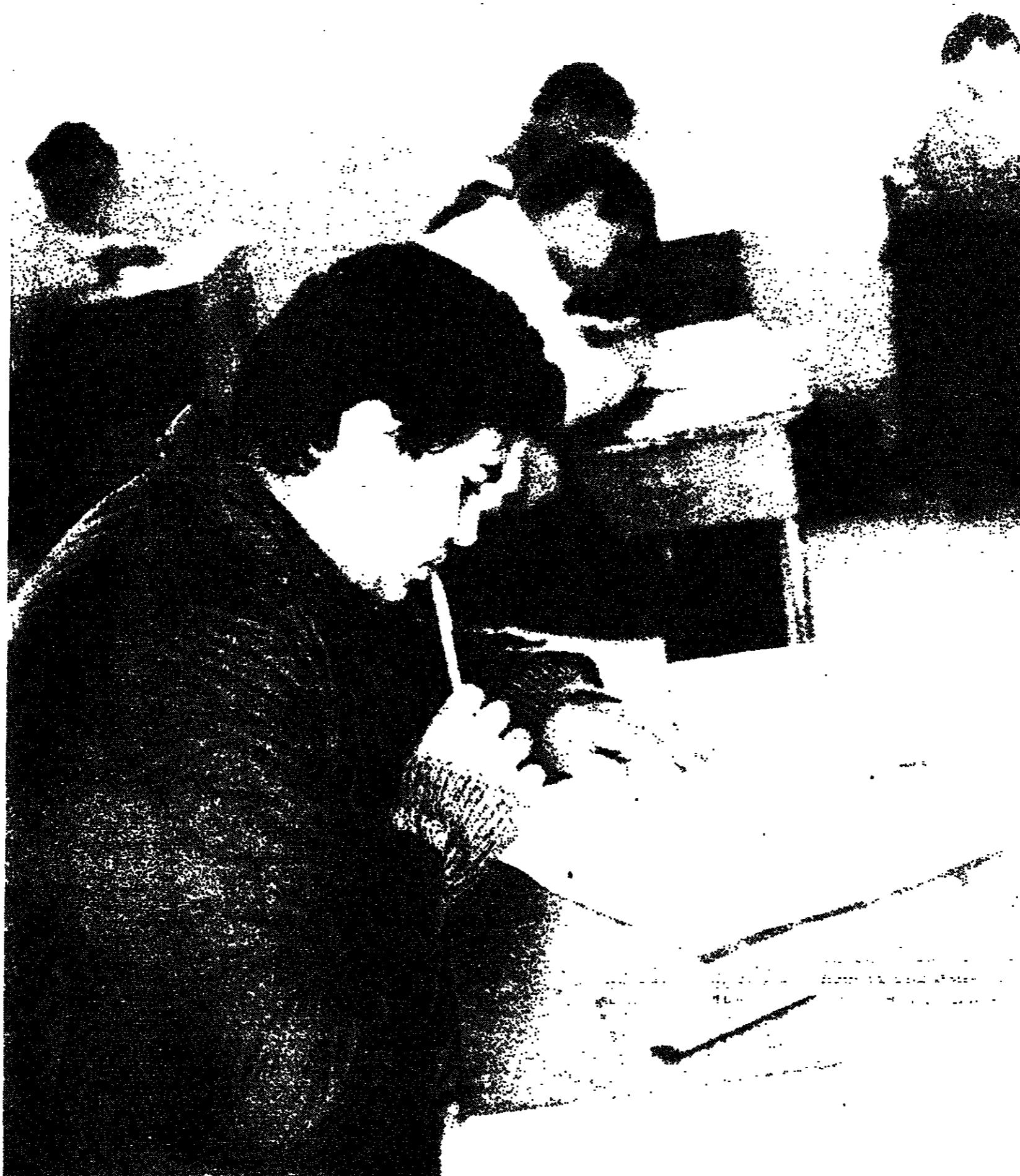
The female professor was more optimistic about future prospects for the ERP.

"I think that hope is really there, and in the next five years to one decade, we should see real fruits," she said.

Both she and Dr. Billeh remarked that under the constraints involved, especially budgetary ones, a great deal of patience was needed.

"This is the first attempt at such extensive reform in the system, and overhauling any education system nationwide is a complicated process," said Dr. Billeh.

"We cannot expect things to change in the wink of an eye."



THE BIG TEST: Jordanian students sit for the tawjih examination (file photo)

Returning Haitian president: Saviour or scoundrel?

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To his supporters, Jean-Bertrand Aristide is a man driven by the dream of a more just society, a fighter who cares only for his people, the first leader in his nation's history with an authentic popular following.

To his opponents, he is a mentally unstable demagogue with a penchant for mob rule, anti-American preachers and an almost cavalier disregard for constitutional norms.

These are the conflicting portraits of Haiti's enigmatic president, as he returns home after three years of exile in Washington.

Almost since the day he took office, U.S. President Bill Clinton has been dogged by the question of just how far he should go in support of this son of Haiti's south coast, about whom there are so many doubts, both personal and political. At enormous political risk, Mr. Clinton decided to send 20,000 troops to Haiti to secure his re-

statement.

Mr. Aristide, 41, does not seem to have identified with his surroundings here, and perhaps it was too much to expect that a product of the hemisphere's poorest and most misruled country could assimilate easily into the local political culture.

He reflects the wariness of a man who has tried to do something no Haitian has ever done: tame the violent minority that has ruthlessly oppressed the Haitian majority for decades. He is the first even to have come close.

Despite these credentials, Mr. Aristide has been a source of unending frustration for official Washington almost since his arrival here in the fall of 1991, not long after he was deposed in a military coup.

Among other irritants to U.S. officials, he has said the United States was behind the coup that ousted him. He has never been firmly convinced that the administration wanted him back in power. Officials sometimes characterise him as "paranoid." Indeed, a

CIA profile that came to light last year also raised questions about his mental state.

As officials see it, Mr. Aristide had a totally unrealistic view of Washington's ability to force the military leaders in Port-au-Prince from office. His assumption that it could be done with a mere phone call to military headquarters was ridiculed by U.S. officials.

He is seen here as long on charisma but short on political skills.

Critics have relentlessly called attention to his reliance on rule by the mob to get his way, as in his advocacy of "necklacing" — placing a gas-soaked tire on the shoulders of an enemy and setting it afire.

His opponents also have pointed to his record of anti-Americanism. Americans, he said in 1990, "want to hold our guts always in their hands. Thus, we will be economically, politically and culturally dependent. For our part, we reject this."

The many disagreements he has had with U.S. offi-

cials over the past three years tend to obscure the reverence with which he seems to be held by most of his countrymen. He has been the object of displays of adulation rarely seen anywhere.

His backers see him as a true intellect, citing his Ph.D. in theology and his ability to converse in eight languages besides religious songs and plays five musical instruments.

In Haiti, he is perceived by some to have divine qualities, partly based on his frequent escapes from brushes with death. He first gained notice from his countrymen when as a 29-year-old firebrand priest in 1982, he called on his parishioners to rise up against the Duvalier dictatorship. A fearful government convinced the church hierarchy to send him abroad.

In 1988, three years after his return, the church was alarmed again by Mr. Aristide's crusade against the establishment and again ordered him into exile. This time tens of thousands of supporters mobbed the

streets, blocking his exit. He remained in Haiti but the church soon thereafter defrocked him, citing his encouragement of violence and exaltation of class struggle.

Thus his links to the Salesian order of Roman Catholicism, which dated back to his enrollment in a Salesian school at age 6, were broken. Coupled with his mother, a devout believer in education, the church was easily the most influential component of his formative years.

There were other influences as well later on. His studies in Israel, Canada and Greece made him aware of how underdeveloped Haiti was both politically and economically.

Despite his large popular following, Mr. Aristide was wary about seeking the presidency in 1990, entering the race just eight weeks before the December elections. He won in a landslide, capturing two of every three votes. In February he was sworn in as president, his first elective post. He lasted seven months.

His enemies in the military and their allies in the small, wealthy elite deposed him. During his brief tenure, many hopeful Haitians living abroad returned home and the number of those trying to flee by boat was relatively small. International aid to Mr. Aristide's government was generous.

But rights abuses did occur. The U.S. State Department's human rights report for 1991 said the Aristide government "proved unwilling or unable to restrain popular justice through mob violence."

An example was the use of such violence to prevent the Haitian parliament from censoring Mr. Aristide's prime minister on corruption charges in July 1991. But the rights situation in those days compares favourably with what has happened since September 1991 under the coup regime.

Now, with constitutional



TRIUMPHANT RETURN?: President Jean-Bertrand Aristide

U.S. inflation under control as growth continues apace

WASHINGTON (AFP) — There was good news of the U.S. economic front Friday, with new figures showing that inflation was under control even as growth continues — reducing chances that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates.

Figures released Friday showed that consumer prices rose 0.2 per cent in September, after news Thursday of a drop of 0.5 per cent in wholesale prices for the same month.

The combination pleased the bond market, the most sensitive inflation barometer.

Interest rates on the Treasury Department's benchmark 30-year bonds fell from 7.85 per cent late Thursday to 7.81 per cent Friday shortly after the consumer price figures were released. It later rose slightly to 7.83 per cent.

The Federal Reserve also said Friday that industrial production was unchanged in September while factory capacity utilisation fell 0.2 per cent. The pause in industrial production was the first following 15 months of steady

increases. In another sign of restrained growth, the government also announced Friday that retail sales for September had risen by 0.6 per cent after a 1.1 per cent rise in August.

Together, these figures are about as good as it gets, said Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co.

"This is the best of all possible worlds," he said. "We are getting continued growth, but not so fast that inflationary pressures are mounting in any meaningful way."

Economist Cynthia Latta of DRI/McGraw Hill said that the Federal Reserve would not necessarily act now to raise short-term interest rates for the sixth time this year to forestall inflation.

"These are not numbers that suggest that they need to do anything immediately."

Several economists said they were beginning to back away from earlier beliefs that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would decide to raise key rates at the Nov. 15 meeting

of its policy-making Open Market Committee.

Economist Robert Brusca of the brokerage firm Nikko Securities agreed. "The Fed really doesn't have any grounds to raise interest rates here," he said.

Mr. Brusca argued that the price rises excluding volatile energy and food prices were actually lower in September than they had been one year earlier.

At an annualised rate, retail prices rose just 2.8 per cent since the beginning of the year — just slightly above the 2.7 per cent recorded in 1993.

But most experts continued to predict that the Fed would act to raise rates after the Nov. 15 meeting.

Other economic figures — like the 4.1 per cent rise in gross domestic product for the second quarter — show that the economy may in fact be growing too quickly to avoid inflationary pressures.

Despite five Fed moves to tighten the money supply since February, the U.S. economy could still grow by 3.5 per cent in the third quarter.

fast enough to risk overheating, said economist Russ Sheldon of Mellon Bank.

Several other analysts agreed, saying that the Federal Reserve would likely try to slow economic growth to 2.5 per cent to avert increases in inflation.

The most recent tightening of monetary policy came in mid-August, when the Federal Reserve raised the discount rate and the Fed funds rate by one-half of one per cent each bringing them to 4.0 per cent and 4.75 per cent, respectively.

The discount rate is the rate that the Federal Reserve charges banks for overnight loans while the Fed funds rate is what banks charge each other for overnight loans.

The most recent inflation figures should be good news for Democrats: The Fed would likely not raise the rates before the Nov. 8 legislative vote — one of the few in which the party in power risks losing massive numbers of seats despite a true economic upturn.

Easing ban on Israel to benefit Arab Gulf countries, official says

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The decision by Gulf Arab states to ease a long-standing economic boycott against Israel will help them acquire Western technology and boost their private sector, an official said Saturday.

Several previously black-listed companies from the United States and other countries are expected to rush to the region and trade will sharply grow between the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and industrial countries, said Hassan Al Numan, chairman of the federation of the Dammam-based GCC chambers of commerce and industry.

The decision to lift the indirect boycott will contribute to increasing joint in-

vestment between Gulf states and those companies while foreign firms will seek new agents in the region," he told Al Khaleej newspaper.

"Trade between the GCC and the United States and Europe will also increase considerably and this will boost the private sector in these countries."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — agreed to lift an indirect boycott against Israel following talks between their foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the United Nations on Sept. 30.

But they have maintained the direct ban would remain

in force until it is removed by a collective decision by the Cairo-based Arab League.

The League has given its members the freedom to lift separately the secondary boycott, which prohibits dealing with companies linked to Israel and bars Israeli publications or ships calling at Israeli ports.

Citing Arab League figures, Mr. Numan said the boycott had cost Israel around \$40 billion between 1950 and 1992.

He said the loss was because the embargo had deprived Israel of around \$37 billion dollars in investment which could have boosted economic annual growth by three per cent during that

period.

Mr. Numan, also head of the UAE's Sharjah chamber, said Israel's mouth of 1993 from \$25 billion two years ago.

Its trade balance also suffered from a deficit of 6.3 billion in 1992 and \$7 billion in 1993.

"I think this is the reason why Israel is interested in the economic of the Middle East peace process," Mr. Numan said.

He urged chambers and other economic institutions in the Arab World to prepare studies on their activities and future economic relations with Israel when Arab States totally end sanctions against Israel.

Japan approves tax reform package

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's cabinet Friday gave final approval for a tax reform package expected to give the country's economy a crucial boost as it emerges from more than three years of recession, officials said.

The Economic Planning Agency said the tax reform, if implemented as planned, would push up the growth rate of Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) by an average 0.4 percentage points in real terms each year until March 2000.

The increase in GDP consists of a 0.6 point increase in domestic demand and a 0.2 point decrease in external demand, the agency said.

"The Japanese economy will be more domestic demand-led," Economic Planning Agency Director

General Masahiko Komura said.

The agency said the planned increase in the consumption tax from the current three per cent to five per cent from April 1997 would push up the nation's consumer prices by 1.5 per cent. But it did not give the forecast yearly changes in GDP after the consumption tax hike.

Makoto Kurimoto, an economist at the Japan Research Institute Ltd., said the forecast increase in GDP was "too optimistic."

"Indeed, the reform will be effective until 1996, but the negative effect stemming from the tax hike from 1996 to 1997 is expected to drag on," he said.

The tax hike is estimated to push down fiscal 1997 GDP by up to 0.6 percentage

points year on year, Mr. Kurimoto said.

Satoshi Shimamoto, an economist at the Tokyo branch of MMS International, noted that Japanese incomes have recently fallen.

"How much the tax cuts will expand consumption is still a question," he said.

Besides the income tax cuts and the consumption tax hike, the reform bills also call for the issue of special bonds from April 1995 to June 1996, to finance the time lag between the income tax cuts and the consumption tax hike.

The government aims to complete legislative procedures for the package by the end of this year, officials said.

The package of national tax reform bills were to be sent to parliament later in the day.

The tax cuts would total 5.5 trillion yen (\$55 billion) next year, in line with reductions this year.

New Zealand records highest growth in OECD

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand has claimed to have the fastest growth rate in the OECD group but also learnt from its central bank that the economy is experiencing greater inflationary pressures than it thought likely a month ago.

Reserve Bank governor Don Brash told a parliamentary committee he had been picking a moderate increase in underlying inflation in forecasts but now pressure had increased.

Statistics New Zealand said gross domestic product in the year to June had grown 6.1 per cent, the highest annual level of economic activity since 1984.

Acting Finance Minister

Wyatt Creech said in a statement New Zealand's economic growth rate was "now far and away the highest" among Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

"The exciting aspect of this very strong growth is that it is high-quality growth, built on sound economic policy fundamentals rather than government pump-priming," Mr. Creech said. "There is every reason to expect this growth to continue long into the future."

However Mr. Brash's comments make it clear New Zealanders now face higher interest rates.

He said there were also some signs that pricing behaviour would be affected by the higher headline inflation rate rather than the underlying inflation rate, again implying "rather greater risks" for underlying inflation.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime has an element of protection and helpfulness that works well with whatever you decide to do. Invoke your more expansive scope of action and expect big results. Expand in all directions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go where you can imbue yourself with the best tenets and philosophy under which to exist. The evening is fine for your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) You keep thinking of money problems but you can figure out a way of handling them and gaining a greater abundance in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get rid of that mental confusion and think logically to get your affairs in better order. Avoid driving too fast and stay safe.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what is your best mode of procedure in the future. You have several options open to you. Choose the best one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are doubtful about your standing with one who means much to you, so take the initiative and find out. Be charming to all you encounter.

VENUS: (August 22 to September 22) 'Worldly affairs are on your mind during the day, so go over your position in life carefully and know how to proceed with your efforts.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study into a better philosophy which can help you to become more prosperous and happy in the days ahead towards those under your roof.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find the right way to change your mate's views and this can become a very happy day for you all. Retire early for tomorrow will be hectic.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Situations arise which will require you think both ideally and practically. Plan next week's activities intelligently.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do something thoughtful for one who has done you many favours and show your gratitude towards this individual. Rest this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that person you like to accompany you at some recreational activity and then you can have a delightful time in their company.

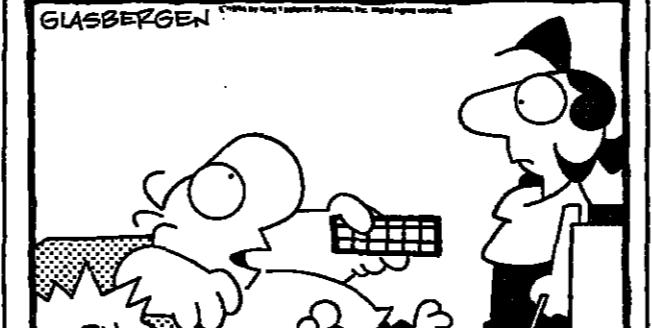
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Home matters are important now, so don't go along with those who want to take you away from them. Show devotion to those under your roof.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

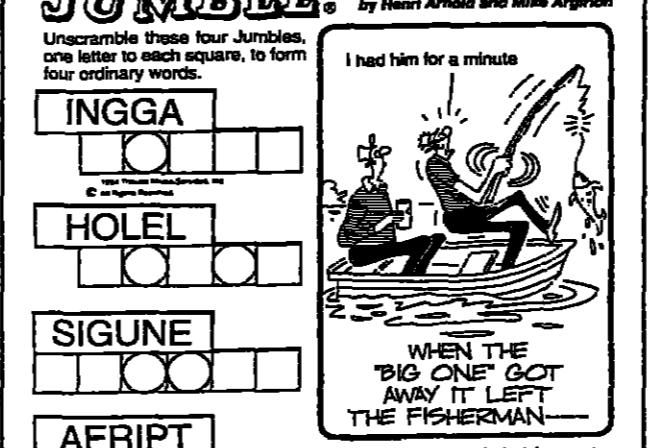
GLASBERGEN



"If we both ignore the housework long enough, maybe the cockroaches will get disgusted and clean up for us!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, each letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.



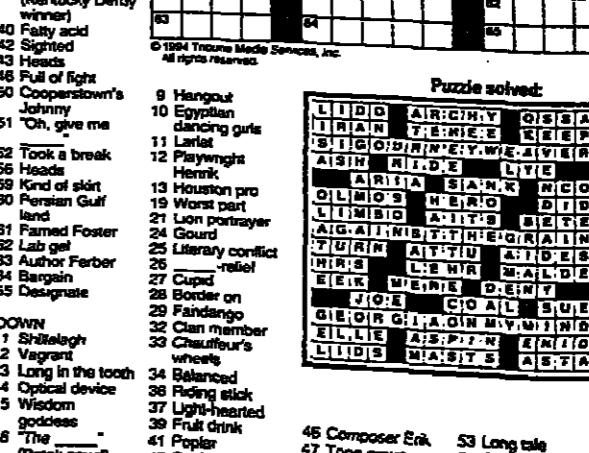
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)
Booth DENOTE MODIFY

Yesterday's Jumble: HEFTY
Answer: How the runners measured the distance to the finish line — FOOT BY FOOT

THE Daily Crossword

By Richard Thomas



Puzzle solved:
1. Hangout
2. Egyptian
3. Playing girls
4. Larvae
5. Playwright
6. Henrik
7. Gumbo
8. Church law
9. Ridge
(Kurtz or Derby winner)
10. Fatty acid
11. Sighted
12. Lush
13. Light
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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994 9

Financial Markets	Jordan Times
	in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close Date 13/10/94
Sterling Pound	1.5895
Deutsche Mark	1.5284
Swiss Franc	1.2730
French Franc	5.2405
Japanese Yen	99.40
European Currency Unit	1.2470
USD for JTC	
European opening rate 1000 a.m. GMT	
Euromoney Interest Rates Date: 14/10/1994	
Currency	1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81 5.37 5.62 6.12
Sterling Pound	5.31 5.75 6.12 6.87
Deutsche Mark	4.75 5.00 5.12 5.50
Swiss Franc	3.56 3.87 4.06 4.50
French Franc	5.25 5.43 5.75 6.25
Japanese Yen	2.06 2.12 2.25 2.56
European Currency Unit	5.47 5.81 6.13 6.65
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent	
Central Bank of Jordan's Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/10/1994	
Currency	Bid Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940 0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.1054 1.1109
Deutsche Mark	0.4566 0.4589
Swiss Franc	0.5492 0.5519
French Franc	0.1329 0.1336
Japanese Yen	0.7059 0.7094
Dutch Guilder	0.4076 0.4096
Swedish Krona	*****
Italian Lira	0.0447 0.0449
Belgian Franc	*****
Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 15/10/1994	
Currency	Bid Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250 1.8450
Lebanese Lira	0.040825 0.042500
Saudi Riyal	0.1835 0.1855
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3170 2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1895 0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2000 0.2110
Qatari Riyal	1.7900 1.8120
UAE Dirham	0.1883 0.1900
Greek Drachma	0.2725 0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.4150 1.5250
Per 100	

APEC businessmen want free trade in the region by 2010

JAKARTA (AFP) — A group of businessmen Saturday handed over a report to the current chairman of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Indonesian President Suharto, proposing that free trade in the region be reached by 2010.

"We are encouraging the leaders to encourage their economies to reach the concept of free trade by the year 2010," Les MacCraw, who cochairs the Pacific Business Forum (PBF) told President Suharto when handing over the group's report.

The report of the PBF, comprising 33 private business representatives of APEC's 18 member economies, said developed APEC economies should achieve free trade and investment barriers.

They should also adopt the principles of a non-binding investment code into domestic laws where appropriate and implement the Uruguay Round commitments as well as undertake further market opening measures.

The report also said that the goal should be adopted this year and no later than 2002 for the other member economies.

The accord reached under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), signed by more than 120 countries in Morocco early this year, will also allow Gulf nations to boost industrial exports as most customs barriers will gradually come down, said the study by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretariat.

Although crude oil is not included, the GATT deal will have an indirect positive effect on demand as it will accelerate economic growth in industrial countries and other key oil importers, it said.

The study, published this week in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finance and industry ministry's bulletin, said European custom tariffs on petrochemicals would be

gradually cut to between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent as from next year.

"There is no doubt this reduction in tariffs will give a strong boost to Gulf petrochemical exports," the Riyadh-based secretariat said. "The United States will be the most attractive market for those exports as tariffs will be cut to around four per cent. These factors will make investment in petrochemicals more feasible and consequently expand the sector."

The GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — are the main petrochemical producers in the Middle East, accounting for the bulk of the region's output of nearly 14 million tonnes per year.

The six members and other Arab oil producers have pumped in more than \$18 billion to set up 913 petrochemical projects in an effort to diversify their economies and reduce reliance on volatile oil earnings.

From around \$863 million

in 1983, GCC petrochemical exports surged to more than \$3 billion in 1992 and the figure is expected to steadily increase after the GATT accord takes effect in 1995.

Most of the GCC petrochemical exports go to the European Union (EU), and the six members have complained that high customs tariffs there are blocking expansion of this sector at a time when crude prices have remained weak.

Several years of negotiations between the two sides on a free-trade pact that will tear down tariffs on petrochemicals and other products have produced no agreement as the Europeans fear their markets will be flooded with cheap Gulf products that could threaten their independent petrochemical industry.

Petrochemical and other oil-related industries in the Gulf are the most feasible in the world given the region's enormous oil and gas reserves, standing at around 650 billion barrels and 40-trillion cubic metres. Encouraged by the GATT

agreement and progress in talks with the EU in the past two years, Gulf states have started to set up new petrochemical projects and expand existing units. According to an official regional study, Arabs will have to spend around \$21 billion on such projects.

The GATT accord will also have a positive impact on Gulf exports of clothes and other manufactured products," the GCC study said.

But it warned GCC governments against providing subsidies to petrochemical and other sectors as this could prompt other states to raise tariffs to compensate any loss as it is stipulated by the GATT accord. It said most Gulf nations were selling associated gas at low prices to petrochemical plants and this could be interpreted by other countries as subsidies.

Resorting to compensation tariffs by other countries will "negatively affect Gulf petrochemical exports," the study said.

Egypt seen struggling to maintain cotton exports at '93 bumper levels

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's cotton producers, plagued by a slump in this year's harvest and hitches in the industry's liberalisation plans, still expect to match last year's bumper levels, export say.

But to do so, Egypt will have to import cheaper short staple cotton to help meet domestic demand and free up its higher quality — and higher-priced — long and extra long staples for international sales.

"They will concentrate on exports and sell as much as they can," a U.S. embassy agricultural expert said this week.

This year's crop, hit by boll

worm after the government introduced sweeping changes in pest control methods, is expected to be down about a quarter from last year's harvest.

Farmers near the northern town of Damietta, where much of the high quality

cotton is grown, report yields down by as much as a half on 1993 levels.

The area of land given over to cotton growing also shrank this year by 15 per cent to around 720,000 acres (290,000 hectares) after some

farmers, discouraged by slow

state payment for their cotton, switched to other crops.

The production slump fol-

lows a rise in output last year to an eight-year high of around 416,000 tonnes of seed cotton and a similar surge in exports, as Egypt capitalised on crop failures in China, India and Pakistan to regain a foothold in world markets it once dominated.

This year's crop is barely expected to match domestic cotton demand of 315,000 tonnes. With a 65,000 tonne overhang of high quality stock from previous years, this would imply import requirement of at least 55,000 tonnes if exports are to be maintained at last year's 120,000 tonnes.

The low crop also comes

just as Egypt is attempting to liberalise the cotton industry, allowing private companies to compete for the first time against state firms for the cotton.

One Egyptian businessman, Mahmoud Wahba, has bought 10-year leases on 17 of the country's cotton gins, and has contracted to buy 130,000 tonnes of cotton from the farmers — more than a third of the expected crop.

But few others have followed his lead.

Plans to revive the Alexandria Cotton Exchange — due to reopen for trade last month — are on hold because of the low crop and difficulty of reintroducing free market practices.

Sunday Times joins price war

LONDON (R) — The Sunday Times, Britain's best-selling broadsheet Sunday newspaper, joined a widening price war Friday with an announcement it was slashing its cover price in half to 50 pence (80 cents).

The Sunday Times is a star in publishing tycoon Rupert Murdoch's News International PLC's stable of newspapers, itself a subsidiary of Mr. Murdoch's Australian-based News Corp. Ltd.

"We make a very large profit. We can afford this," John Witherow, the newspaper's acting editor, told Sky Television.

The Times, the Sunday paper's daily stablemate, started a price war in September 1993 by slashing its cover price first to 30 pence (48 cents), then to 20 pence (32 cents). Media industry share analysts estimate that Mr. Murdoch is losing £50 million (\$80 million) a year in the circulation war.

Its rivals, the Daily Telegraph, controlled by Canadian magnate Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. and Newspaper Publishing's Independent, reluctantly followed suit. They both now sell for 30 pence (48 cents) Monday to Friday.

Overall newspaper share prices fall with each price cut.

The Sunday Times, which announced its price cut in a blaze of television advertisements, will now cost 40 pence (65 cents) less than its competitor The Observer, which declined comment on the move.

It will be half the price of another rival. The Independent on Sunday, but editor Ian Jack said he was not planning an immediate matching price cut.

A spokeswoman for The Sunday Times said the paper was planning to increase its print run this weekend, in part because of the price cut, but also because the paper was planning serialisations of two books about heir to the throne Prince Charles' troubled marriage to Princess Diana.

"This is the perfect opportunity to cut the price of the paper," Mr. Witherow said.

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Talal Mansoor of Qatar celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the men's 200m final event Saturday at the 12th Asian Games. Talal timed 20.41 seconds, winning the gold and equalling the Asian record (AFP photo)

Money makes Qatar's coaches run

HIROSHIMA (R) — How come a nation of half a million can win almost as many gold medals as a nation of one billion?

Money and devotion to sport is the answer according to the foreign coaches of Qatar which is once again defying its small size to make an impression on the medals table.

With three days left in the Asian Games, Qatar has two gold medals, only one behind massive India and with good hopes of picking up several more.

"If you have money, you can get good coaches," said Qatar's Anatoli Klimenko of Ukraine who coaches Qatar's discus, javelin.

Klimenko said the facilities offered to foreign coaches in Qatar, a small oil-rich Gulf sheikhdom of just 500,000 people, compared with the best in the world.

The perks have attracted coaches from many countries, including several from

the East Bloc, struggling to find jobs after the collapse of state funding for massive sports machines under communism rule.

They make impressive reading — two Bulgarians, two Ukrainians, two Hungarians and one Czech, accompanied by two masons, one from Bulgaria and the other from Ukraine.

Ukrainian jump coach Oleg Sergueev believes the athletes themselves are also good raw material in Qatar, once their mental attitudes are changed.

He said the Qatars have shown at the Asian Games they can fight for first places with the Asian sporting superpowers such as China.

"They have the mental attitude now," he said.

Qatar's golds have come in the glamour men's 100 metres and men's 400 metres events.

Games set condom consumption record

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — The Asian Games athletes village may stop giving free condoms to competitors who seem to prize them more than they do medals.

The organisers, who laid on free contraceptives to stop the spread of AIDS, had planned for three packets per athlete over the two weeks.

But Shinichi Miyamori explained that some of the 4,000-strong contingent of competitors were grabbing up to 50.

"Headquarters is considering stopping the condoms because too many have been taken," said the games village pharmacist.

Miyamori suspects many of the condoms have become "souvenirs." And they are certainly not being used in Hiroshima's sex parlours

which are turning away foreign athletes and game officials.

The "soapland" parlours, illegal but widespread, say they apply a Japanese-only policy to stop the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) which many Japanese still see as a foreign disease.

The athletes and officials come here often but we politely reject them," said the manager at the Renaissance, one of the 30 parlours in Hiroshima's "Thousand Bars" district.

"Asian Games or not, we have always turned down any gaingai (foreigner)," he added. "It is the same at other shops. We all fear AIDS."

AIDS has had a severe impact on Japan's sex industry.

try, and has led to an even greater clampdown on foreigners.

Sex gadget shops in the notorious red light zone of Nagaregawa in central Hiroshima are thriving with the influx of Asian Games family members.

"They buy many kinds of things. But the vibrators of different prices sell well," said the woman owner of Adult Shop Love chain.

"They speak different languages, Chinese, Korean and Arab. But I don't ask them where they are from."

The organising committee has been distributing booklets in 11 languages warning against AIDS as well as the disappearing condoms.

S. Korea lose soccer bronze

HIROSHIMA (R) — South Korea scored in the fourth minute but could not hold off Kuwait in the soccer bronze medal game at the Asian Games Saturday.

Just two days after losing a wild semifinal they should have won against Uzbekistan, South Korea again outplayed their opponent only to lose.

Kuwait came back with goals by Wail Al Habash in the seventh minute and another by Fawaz Al Ahmad in the 19th minute for the 2-1 victory.

South Korea outshot Uzbekistan 27-4 in their semifinal Thursday, only to lose on a soft second-half goal.

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ASIAN GAMES

Qatar's Mansoor wins sprints; Kazakhstan wins at long distances

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Qatar's Talal Mansoor reinforced his claim as Asia's sprint king Saturday with his second gold medal of the Asian Games, while Kazakhstan won the games' two longest races.

Wang Junxia, star member of "Ma's Army" of Chinese distance runners, picked up the pace near the end even though she was unchallenged, but couldn't match her world record in winning the women's 10,000 metres, a half-hour race.

Two outings in the neighbourhood of four hours brought gold to Kazakhstan's Sergui Koropanov, who won the 50-kilometre walk in 3 hours, 54 minutes, 37 seconds, and Andrei Kivilev, who won the 169.44-kilometre (105.25-mile) cycling road race in 4:31:53.

China, which added six golds to its collection Saturday, already had decisively clinched the overall medals championship for its third consecutive games.

Its gold total rose to 133, while South Korea clinched second place ahead of archrival Japan by winning third badminton golds, the men's field hockey title and one gold in judo.

The Koreans had 62 for Japan, which won one in track and field and three in judo.

China led in total medals with 279. Japan had 202, South Korea 177 and Kazakhstan 77, including 25 gold. Aside from track and

cycling, Kazakhstan won the water polo gold Saturday.

Uzbekistan won two track and field events, and Ramil Ganiev claimed the title of Asia's best all-around athlete by winning the 10-event decathlon.

Indonesia won two badminton golds to go with the men's team title it won earlier.

Mansoor, already the 100-metre winner, won the 200 Saturday, also in a games record time.

Hi 20.41 beat the 8-year-old mark of 20.71. Koji Ito of Japan was second in 20.70.

Mansoor is retiring after these games, his third as 100-metre champion.

In the women's 10,000, Wang Junxia, star member of "Ma's Army" of Chinese distance runners, picked up the pace near the end even though she was unchallenged, but couldn't match her world record in winning the women's 10,000 metres, a half-hour race.

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China led in total medals with 279. Japan had 202, South Korea 177 and Kazakhstan 77, including 25 gold. Aside from track and

stood second after seven events, dropped out with an injury after the pole vault.

Uzbekistan's other gold came in the women's javelin, where Oksana Yargina upset favoured Hua Xiaoyan of China with a throw of 64.62 metres. South Korea's Lee Young-Sup also beat Ha, 62.30 to 62.08.

China finished 1-2 in all four track and field events it won Saturday. Aside from Wang and Dong in the women's 10,000, it was Li Tong and Chen Yanhao in the men's 110-metre hurdles, Yao Weili and Li Jing in the women's long jump, and Sui Ximai and Zhang Liuhong in the women's shot put.

Li won in a games record 13.30 seconds. Yao also broke a games mark with her jump of 6.91 metres, and Sui won with a 20.45-metre toss.

Japan's Takahisa Yoshida edged South Korea's Lee Jun-Tack 2.27 to 2.24 in the men's high jump.

Kivilev also led a 1-2 finish in the men's cycling race. He took the lead after about 127 kilometres (79 miles), and teammate Alexandre Vino-kuro made up about a minute over the last 14 kilometres (8 miles) to match his time, but not his medal.

China swept all three medals in the women's 56.48-kilometre (35-mile) cycling road race, with all three medalists times in 1:57:10.

Guo Xinghong won the gold.

China also won the men's basketball gold for the third consecutive games, defeating

South Korea 100-72 in the final. Japan beat the Philippines' professionals 79-76 for the bronze medal.

South Korea beat India 3-2 for the men's field hockey title. Defending champion Pakistan, which lost a penalty shoot-out to South Korea in the semifinals, took the bronze by drubbing Japan 6-0.

Kazakhstan captured its water polo gold Saturday with a perfect 5-0 record, beating Singapore 2-17 Saturday in its final game. China beat Japan 9-5, leaving the Chinese with the silver and Japan with the bronze.

Defending champion Malaysia beat Thailand 15-9, 15-13 in the gold medal game in sepak takraw, a southeast game that resembles volleyball except that players can't use their hands to send the ball over the net. Singapore defeated Indonesia 15-10, 18-13 for the bronze.

Japan's judo winners Saturday were Olympic silver medalist Ayoko Tamura over China's Li Aiye by superiority in the women's 56-kilogramme division, Noriko Anno over China's Qiao Yannan by a throw in the women's open class, and Katsuyuki Masuchi over South Korea's Lee Joon-Young by a pin in the men's open class. South Korea's Kim Kyuk was judged the winner over Japan's Ryuuji Sonoda in the men's 60-kilogramme class.

The nations winning the day's badminton golds mostly

had been decided in advance: The men's single was an all-Indonesian affair, and only South Koreans were left in the women's and mixed doubles.

But South Korea's Bang Soo-Hyun, the Olympic silver medalist, won 11-4, 11-6 in women's singles against Japan's Hisako Mizai, who eliminated favourite Susi Susanti of Indonesia in the semifinals.

Indonesians Remy Ronald Maimay and Ricky Ahmad Subagja took the men's doubles crown 15-10, 15-2 against Malaysia's Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang.

In men's singles, Heriyanto Arbi beat fellow Indonesian Joko Suprianto 15-7, 15-1.

Shim Eun-Jung and Jang Hye-Ock beat South Korean compatriots Chung So-Young and Gil Young-Ah 15-9, 15-3 for the women's doubles title. But Chung teamed with Yoo-Sung for the mixed doubles title, winning 15-10, 15-12 against Jang and Kang Kyung-jin.

Indonesia had won the men's team title and South Korea the women's earlier.

China and Japan will battle for the men's volleyball gold on Sunday. In semifinals Saturday, China beat Kazakhstan and Japan defeated South Korea.

Kuwait edged South Korea 2-1 for the soccer, bronze medal. Uzbekistan and China will battle for the gold Sunday.



REHEARSALS: A group of Japanese women in traditional kimonos performs on the track of the Big Arch Stadium during rehearsals for the 12th Asian Games closing ceremony due Sunday (AFP photo)

Wang's report card — could do better

HIROSHIMA (R) — Chinese distance runner Wang Junxia wants to do better, but she needs help.

The winner Saturday of the women's 10,000 metres Asian Games title said she feared a lack of competition would stymie her relentless assault on the record books.

"I don't want to appear arrogant and it doesn't matter if you are talking about China or about Ma's family army. I would like to see better training and faster times in all of Asia. It would be beneficial to all of Asia and help us compete against the Europeans," she said.

On the face of it, it is difficult to imagine that the 19-year-old world record holder and world champion, star of coach Ma Junren's stable of athletes, had much to complain about.

Her winning time Saturday of 30 minutes 50.34 seconds was the seventh fastest ever

and the quickest this year by more than 18 seconds, despite lacklustre opposition from four other runners, one a barefoot 13-year-old from Burma.

The world record holder at both 10,000 metres and 3,000 metres — her world mark is 29:31.78 — paced herself like clockwork during the race and then took the line with an astonishing 30-second sprint over the last 200 metres.

Teammate Dong Li helped on track with her pacing, but she got most help from the gallery, where Ma sat holding court amidst his coterie of running disciples.

A cigarette in one hand and two stopwatches in the other, Ma would lift his index finger as a signal for Wang to maintain her pace. A circular motion was his instruction to turn on the speed.

With a forest of cameras and journalists around him and partly obscuring his view

of the track, Ma was forced to roll up a newspaper to get his message across, using it as a wand to tell her it was time to sprint.

After Wang's race, Ma echoed Wang's sentiments, saying the rest of Asia needed to improve in order to test his runners.

"That's right, Asia is uniting,

the Ma family army is going to help Asian athletes improve," he said.

Wang cast further light on the mysterious disappearance of Ma's family army from the public eye this year and their failure to make it to the lucrative European Grand

Prix circuit.

Their non-appearance had already partly been explained by Ma's revelation that he had organised mass appendix removals from most of his international squad a few months ago, requiring a period of recuperation from the surgeon's knife.

"We ate some spoiled chicken meat in Shenyang and the injury to my leg left me unable to practise for a month," she said.

According to Chinese journalists, the chef at Ma's Shenyang training camp was sacked after the chicken incident.

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Mahfouz recovers after attack that shocked Egyptians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz was reportedly recovering well Saturday after a knife attack, apparently by an Islamic radical. Fellow writers called the stabbing an assault on freedom of thought in Egypt.

The 83-year-old author, diabetic and nearly blind, was stabbed in the neck several times Friday night as he left his house to attend a weekly meeting with other literary figures. The assassin fled in a car with two accomplices.

Mr. Mahfouz was in excellent condition considering his age, said a doctor at the police hospital. He said the writer was conscious and talking but would remain in the hospital's intensive care unit for at least 72 hours.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but police blamed Muslim militants who have carried out a bloody, 2½-year campaign to destabilise the government and install Islamic rule.

Egypt was in shock on Saturday after the attack. "He is Egypt's fourth pyramid," said a teary-eyed Hassan Morsi, a waiter in Casino Al Nil cafe, who has served Mr. Mahfouz his sugar-free Turkish coffee for the past 15 years.

"How can they do this to him? Such a peace-loving man and the pride of the nation?" he said in the Nile-side cafe, where Mr. Mahfouz meets every Friday with a literary group called "Al Harafeesh" (the night animals), including producers, actors and celebrities as well as ordinary people.

His friends had been waiting for Mr. Mahfouz at the cafe on Friday evening when a police officer informed them of the attack.

Fathi Hashem, a friend who witnessed the attack, recognised the assailant as someone who attended the Harafeesh gatherings.

Sharra urges U.S. to pressure Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra urged the United States on Saturday to exert more influence on Israel so that obstacles impeding progress in the Middle East peace process could be removed.

He made his remarks here after talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez.

During the two-hour meeting, Mr. Sharra relayed a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Mr. Hrawi and briefed the Lebanese officials on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Syria.

Mr. Sharra said that while the talks with the Israelis had not reached a "progressive stage," the Syrians had noted a more serious U.S. desire to bridge the gaps between Syria and Israel.

The Syrian-Israeli track in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process has been stalled since February.

"Because of this American seriousness, the United States should exert more influence on Israel to push the peace process forward," said Mr. Sharra.

The meeting came two days after Mr. Christopher ended his latest Mideast peace mission, his fifth peace-promoting shuttle in the region since May.

Mr. Christopher has said that Israel and Syria were inching closer to a peace agreement, but acknowledged that gaps still exist.

PNA-Hamas showdown looms

(Continued from page 1) peace talks and sealing off the Gaza Strip.

"The Israeli government should put an end to the policy of collective punishment against the Gaza Strip and against Palestinians as a whole," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters after the marathon seven-hour meeting.

"We are trying our best to end these problems peacefully. The results did not surprise us when the Israeli government resorted to military operations," he added.

An official who requested anonymity said most of the Hamas supporters would be released in the next few days

Gulf tension eases

(Continued from page 1) vote before Mr. Kozyrev's arrival, stressed that if the United States submits an agreed-on resolution for a vote Saturday they would have no choice but to vote on it.

Kuwaiti officials said Saturday they were wary of Iraq's pledge to recognise the emirate and that they wanted to see the recognition in writing and soon.

Meanwhile, staff in the Ali Baba cafe, which Mr. Mahfouz frequents during the winter, expressed their outrage at the attack.

"He is a national treasure. The West made a hero of him and honoured him. I can't believe that this is how we treat him," said Nader Ibrahim Sayed, a cashier.

"If they (the militants) had a problem with the state, why don't they take it out on the state and leave innocent people alone," Ali Baba's manager Khaled Abdul Moati said.

Mr. Mahfouz, a critic of religious conservatives and supporter of Arab-Israeli peace, is the only Arab author to have won the Nobel prize.

In 1989, militants threatened him for his banned book "The Children of Our District," in which he depicts God as a father and the prophets as his children.

But his friends dismissed the theory that this was behind the attack.

"He was not attacked because of his writings but because he is a symbol of Egypt and (the militants) wanted to attack the state through him," said Mr. Mahfouz's old friend, producer Tawfiq Saleh.

Mr. Mahfouz was an easy target, Mr. Saleh said. He always refused bodyguards, was "scrupulously punctual," and all of Cairo knows the site of his Nile-side home.

U.S. move in Gulf to cost under \$1 billion

Mr. Sharra blamed the stalemate on Israel.

Syria wants Israel to relinquish the strategic Golan Heights which it lost in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel refuses to take that step without a clear idea of the kind of peace Damascus would extend in return.

Mr. Christopher did not stop in Lebanon, which he has visited only once since becoming secretary of state.

Syrian officials usually brief Lebanese leaders on Mr. Christopher's mission.

Lebanon seeks Israeli withdrawal from an enclave in South Lebanon that Israel carved out in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Lebanon and Syria are the only two front-line states that have not made peace with Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan recently signed preliminary accords with the Jewish state. Egypt reached a settlement in 1979.

Asked to comment on the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded Friday to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Sharra said:

"There's a general feeling in the Arab World that peace has not yet prevailed. Therefore, it cannot be considered that the prize has come at the right time and for the right goal."

Saudis turn back Sudanese livestock

but those with connections to its Qassam military wing would be held for more questioning.

Leaders from Hamas and the PLO said relations were shattered by the kidnapping.

"Hamas has burned its bridges with the authority. It will be difficult for both sides to trust each other," a PLO official said.

Four Reuter journalists were still being held by the kidnapping.

"Hamas has burned its bridges with the authority. It will be difficult for both sides to trust each other," a PLO official said.

One of the three Hamas kidnappers killed in Friday's shootout, Jadallah, was the brother of Reuters Gaza photographer Ahmad Jadallah.



Picture of January 1993 shows U.S. Patriot missiles deployed in Kuwait (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994

Danish minister arrives today



Princess Grace's later years 'haunted by marital strains'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two years after her death, Monaco's Princess Grace is being painted in an unauthorised biography as a bitter woman who late in life sought young men's company to flee from a passionless marriage.

Grace Kelly, the patrician Hollywood actress who became Monaco's fairytale princess, is stripped of the myths traditionally associated with her life in Robert Lacey's Grace, published this month by G.P. Putnam's Sons. The respectfully written book, which largely steers clear of scandal, sheds some light on what Lacey believes was the sadness of an extremely lonely woman, coping with an indifferent husband and rebellious daughters.

Possibilities of cooperation among Danish experts, consultants and industrial companies and their Jordanian and Palestinian counterparts will be discussed during the visit.

The Danish official, who will take part in the opening of a conference on investment and business opportunities at the Amman Chamber of Industry on Monday, is scheduled to address a press conference Tuesday to sum up the outcome of his visit and talks with Jordanian officials.

Tawfiq Kawar, Denmark's consul general in Jordan said the minister was scheduled to have formal meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hasani and Information Minister Jawad Anani.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan may receive Mr. Wohlik, Mr. Kawar said.

Mr. Kawar told the Jordan Times that Mr. Wohlik, who leaves for home Wednesday, is seeking to develop cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) through Jordan.

The conference, beginning on Monday, will be the second of its kind to be sponsored by the Amman Chamber of Industry. The first was held here in April of 1987.

A 13-member Jordanian business delegation returned to Denmark in October 1987 when they followed up on talks on trade and economic cooperation.

Clinton: Peace will not be turned back

(Continued from page 1) prisoner exchange in a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"During the meeting the possibility arose from the other side, not on our part, that perhaps it would be possible to enable the hostage to be freed in exchange for Sheikh Ahmad Yassin," Mr. Ginnosar told Israel Radio.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid also called for a "clear" statement from Iraq on Kuwait's sovereignty.

Mr. Juppe who arrived from Qatar is also due to visit

"The instruction I had was that we were prepared to hold a concrete proposal on this matter, concrete on condition that it would be the responsibility of the Palestinian authority and it would indeed be a serious proposal," Mr. Ginnosar said.

Mr. Rabin told reporters on Friday night he ordered the commando raid after other alternatives were ruled out.

"All this fuss will end quietly and without any strategic action being taken against Saddam, who, when the time is right, will be given an adequate role in the region," the newspaper said.

Mideast peace takes a battering

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Hardliners have given another battering to Middle East peace with a hostage drama that ended in a deadly commando raid, but Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were hanging on to their fragile dream as best they could.

"We have shown ourselves and others that we can overcome these things," government spokesman Uri Dromi told AFP.

"There is no way we will let the peace process sink or go into a deep stalemate," he added.

The Israeli hostage drama left five dead and 10 wounded on Friday night when Israeli troops stormed a hideout of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Just four days earlier two men sprayed bullets along a cafe-lined Jerusalem street, killing two people and wounded 13 before being gunned down themselves.

The Nobel Peace Prize shared Friday by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres briefly recalled the lofty ambitions of the Palestinian autonomy deal they agreed a year ago.

But with Hamas vowing to kill a Jewish soldier unless their leader and 200 prisoners were released, tensions had never been higher since Israel and the PLO took the historic step towards reconciliation.

Mr. Rabin sent in crack troops who killed three Hamas kidnappers in an operation which also left the 19-year-old hostage and an Israeli lieutenant dead.

Because of the kidnapping, Israel on Tuesday suspended negotiations with the PLO on the next stage of autonomy and demanded action from Mr. Arafat to rein in his foes.

"Arafat cannot have in the same time peace with Israel and peace with Hamas," Mr. Rabin warned after the hostage bloodbath.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben Ami, said the prime minister was "thinking about the question (of fresh talks) and will take a decision later."

But the government spokesman took a positive line.

"We have gone a long way

until now and we have developed enough vigour so now we can sustain such losses," Mr. Dromi said.

"There's enough contact and cooperation between us from Rabian and Arafat down.

"I am sure that in coming days we will see some attempts to bring things back to normal in the peace process. In a strange way it may even invigorate the peace process."

Mr. Arafat certainly wants to press on with autonomy, to hold elections for a council of ruling not just the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho but all the West Bank.

And to ensure Palestinian public support he needs to get the more than 5,000 prisoners out of Israeli jails, a move which could also calm hardline clamour.

One senior Israeli minister told AFP: "I presume that the renewal of the talks will be discussed in the coming days."

"There have been contacts all week and there will other contacts in the next few days to resume the Cairo talks."

"We have to let the burning passions cool but I can't

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis turn back Sudanese livestock

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Saudi Arabian port authorities last month turned back more than half of Sudanese sheep exports, charging that the livestock was diseased, a news report said Saturday. The Al Sudan Al Hadith daily quoted a senior Sudanese veterinarian as saying Saudi authorities at Jeddah port allowed 26,000 sheep to be unloaded but ordered 29,000 others to be rejected. The veterinarian, Al Sir Abdul Hai, said the Saudis alleged the rejected sheep were suffering from inflammation of the lymph glands. He said this was not classed as an infectious disease preventing livestock from being exported, adding that livestock intended for export was kept in quarantine for two to three weeks. Hai charged that the Saudi authorities had rejected the shipment due to excess numbers of sheep on local markets, which Saudi importers feared might cause a decrease in prices. The Sudanese official called for alternative international markets for Sudanese livestock exports, and for increased operations to stamp out sheep smuggling across the Red Sea.

Man gets 80 lashes for accusing woman

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A man in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was lashed 80 times with a whip for accusing a woman of having an illegitimate son, the Al Khaleej newspaper reported on Saturday. The man, identified only by his initials H.M., was flogged in public in the eastern emirate of Fujairah on Friday under a sentence by an Islamic court. He admitted in court that he had told the woman during a squabble that her son was illegitimate, the paper said. The court sentenced him to flogging in public in accordance with Islamic Sharia (law) after he insulted the woman's honour and failed to prove his

allegations," it said.

Police conscript killed in south Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Suspected militants on Saturday opened fire on a police car killing a conscript in southern Egypt, police sources said. The incident happened when three militants ambushed the car in Mallawi, in the province of Minya, about 241 kilometres south of Cairo, killing Salama. Salama was serving his military service in the police. Mallawi has become the new militant hotbed, after police rooted out their hideouts in the stronghold of Assuit, about 380 kilometres south of Cairo. On Friday suspected militants killed a civilian and seriously wounded two police officers in a village near Mallawi, police said.

Arab sentenced for killing daughter

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A district court on Friday gave an Arab Israeli who killed his daughter a relatively light sentence saying his act was influenced by his Arab upbringing. Prosecutors had demanded life imprisonment for Farag Dabas, 40, who stabbed his 18-year-old daughter to death after digging her grave. But the court rejected charges of premeditated murder and sentenced the refugee to nine years in prison for manslaughter. After serving his sentence, he will be expelled, the court said in a statement. The girl's stepmother, who witnessed the killing, was given a fine related to her income. No amount was given. The court in Linkoping, 200 kilometres west of Stockholm, said Mr. Dabas had been "shamed" by his daughter's love affairs.

Lyon mayor Michel Noir had a close shave Thursday evening in a Lyon street when he was hit by "a little shaving cream" squirted on him by two passers-by, police said.

They said two persons, "whose names were unknown," were questioned about the incident, and one of them was jailed but then released as the mayor did not want to press charges.

Royalist movement Action Francaise said the attackers belonged to the organisation, saying in a communiqué delivered to AFP in Paris that Action Francaise "supports the young royalist students of Lyon III school who daubed the mayor of Lyon in protest against politicians' corruption." It said Mr. Noir had been creamed as "an act of derision for a despicable regime."